

## Effect of Post-harvest Treatments on Quality and Shelf Life of Pineapple (*Ananas comosus* [L.] Merr. 'Giant Kew') Fruits at Ambient Storage Condition

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### Abstract

The present investigation was taken up at Research Laboratory, Department of Horticulture, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Mizoram University, Aizawl to study the effect of nine post-harvest treatments viz., fruit dipping in NAA at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, gibberellic acid at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, salicylic acid at 5 mM L<sup>-1</sup>, covering the fruit with perforated polythene and newspaper bag, fruit coating with wax at 60 g L<sup>-1</sup>, fruit dipping in maleic hydrazide at 500 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, covering of fruit with dry straw and control, on fruit physico-chemical qualities and shelf life of pineapple cv. Giant Kew. Experiment was laid out in complete randomized design with three replications. Study revealed that among the different treatments, fruits treated with GA<sub>3</sub> at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> showed delayed response of ripening and high shelf life (19.05 days) during storage. At 15 DAS, skin colour remained quarter yellow (average score: 3.2), flesh colour remained more white than yellow (average score: 3), whereas, fruits showed considerably higher amount of TSS (20.41°Brix), TSS : acid ratio (20.21), total sugar (13.67%) and ascorbic acid content (18.49 mg 100 g pulp<sup>-1</sup>) with less weight loss (11.61%) due to this treatment. However, among the other treatments, SA (5.0 mM) performed well in terms of fruit physico-chemical properties and shelf life. SA treated fruits showed less external disease (average score: 1.8) and fruit decay (average score: 2.0) with high juice content (71.63%) and TSS (19.12 °Brix) at 15 DAS along with high shelf life (17.05 days).

### 1. Introduction

Pineapple, which is known as 'Golden Queen' for its attractive golden yellow colour at ripening and its enticing sugar acid blending, is one of the important tropical fruit crops of India, belongs to Bromeliaceae family and originated in South America. Presently, the crop is cultivated in an area of 105 thousand h to yield around 1571 thousand mt, which led India as 7<sup>th</sup> largest pineapple producing country in the world (Anon., 2014). The fruit is rich in sugar, minerals (calcium, iron), organic acids and fairly rich in vitamins (A, B and C). It contains a protein digestive enzyme; bromelain, for what it is potentially used as digestive aid in medicine industry. It is a very important table fruit in South East Asia, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand. Apart from that it is popularly used in canning and juice industries. Pineapples in fresh fruit market or in transit to canning industries are generally transferred in unrefrigerated condition which led the fruit for faster deterioration in edible quality and nutraceuticals content. Certainly, at ambient condition, enhanced biochemical

transformation of starch to sugar made the fruit rich in sugar which consequently gets affected by microbial spoilage. Thus, pineapples have a short post harvest shelf life at ambient temperature and deteriorate quickly (Lu et al., 2010). The average minimum loss reported is 21% and occasional instance estimated of 40 to 50% and above (Salunkhe and Desai, 1984). This is major short coming in successful trading and export of fresh pineapple fruit. However, cold storage or refrigerated supply is effective at inhibiting the development of decay in pineapple fruit, but symptoms of chilling injury, especially internal browning are observed (Paull and Rohrbach, 1985). Therefore it is of utmost importance to develop a technique for extending the shelf life of pineapple at ambient temperature by reducing the post-harvest decay and maintaining the physico-chemical qualities of fruit.

### 2. Materials and Methods

#### 2.1. Location of experiment

The experiment was carried out during May-June, 2013, with



mature green pineapple fruits of cv. Giant Kew obtained from a local grower of Zeipuzau, Aizawl, at Research Laboratory, Department of Horticulture, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Mizoram University, stored at  $23 \pm 2$  °C temperature and relative humidity of  $65 \pm 5\%$ .

## 2.2. Treatments

Nine post harvest treatments viz., fruit dipping in Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) at  $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  ( $T_1$ ), Gibberellic Acid ( $GA_3$ ) at  $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  ( $T_2$ ), Salicylic Acid (SA) at  $5 \text{ m M L}^{-1}$  ( $T_3$ ) and Maleic Hydrazide (MH) at  $500 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  ( $T_7$ ); covering with perforated polythene ( $T_4$ ), newspaper bag ( $T_5$ ) and dry straw ( $T_8$ ); coating with wax at  $60 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  ( $T_6$ ) and control (treated with water:  $T_9$ ) with three replications were used and statistical analysis was done by following complete randomized design (Gomez and Gomez, 1984).

## 2.3. Scoring of visual quality indices

Following visual quality indices (Table 1) of fruits viz., skin and flesh colour, skin texture, crown condition, flesh translucency, external disease and fruit decay, were recorded as per the standard procedure described by Teisson et al., 1979; Abdullah et al., 1986.

## 2.4. Physical and biochemical analysis of fruits

### 2.4.1. Determination of weight loss

Fruits for each treatment were tagged and weighed at 5 days interval using an electronic balance. The percentage weight loss was calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Percentage weight loss at } n^{\text{th}} \text{ day} = \frac{\text{weight loss (0 day-} n^{\text{th}} \text{ day)}}{\text{Weight at 0 day}} \times 100$$

### 2.4.2. Determination of decrease (%) in fruit length and

### diameter

Fruits for each treatment were tagged and fruit length (cm) and diameter (cm) were measured at 5 days interval by using a digital slide caliper. The per cent decrease in fruit length and diameter were calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Per cent decrease at } n^{\text{th}} \text{ day} = \frac{\text{length or diameter at (0 day-} n^{\text{th}} \text{ day)}}{\text{Length/diameter at 0 day}} \times 100$$

### 2.4.3. Determination of juice content (%)

The percentage of juice content of the fruit pulp was calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage of juice in fruit pulp} = \frac{\text{Wt. of juice}}{\text{Wt. of pulp}} \times 100$$

### 2.4.4. Biochemical parameters

Analyses were carried out for biochemical parameters viz., total soluble solids (TSS), total sugar, titrable acidity, TSS: acid ratio and ascorbic acid content following standard procedure described by Ranganna (1997).

## 2.5. Shelf life of fruit

Optimum shelf life (days) of fruits were determined depending on the visual observation of fruit decay, fruit physico-chemical parameters and spoilage and counting the days from harvest to the day with maximum visual score and edible quality.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Skin Colour

Skin colour of pineapple fruits markedly changed during storage. It was observed that from mature green stage, fruit colour gradually intensified through the time of storage (Table 2). Similar findings were mentioned by Wijesinghe and

Table 1: Scores for visual observation with indices

Score	Indices						
	Skin colour	Flesh colour	Skin texture	Crown condition	Flesh translucency	External disease	Fruit decay
1.	Mature green	White	Soggy and soft	Good fresh and green	100% opaque	None	None
2.	Breaking (beginning to yellow at the base)	White with trace of yellow or pale yellow	Slightly firm	Good with slightly yellow at the tips	Opaque with slight translucent (less than 50%)	Slightly infected	10% decay
3.	Quarter yellow	More white than yellow	Moderately	Moderate, dry tips and yellowing	Opaque with moderate translucent (more than 50%)	Moderately infected	25% decay
4.	Half yellow	Yellow	Very firm	Bad, dry tips and more yellowing	100% translucent	Severely infected	50% decay
5.	Three quarter yellow	Golden yellow		Severe yellowing			75% decay
6.	Fully yellow	Brownish yellow					100% decay



Table 2: Scores of visual quality indices of fruit due to different treatments during storage

Treatments	Skin colour				Flesh colour				Skin texture				Crown condition				Flesh translucency			
DAS	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15
T <sub>1</sub> NAA at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	1.0	4.4	5.2	-	1.0	4.0	4.6	-	4.0	2.2	2.4	-	1.0	1.8	3.4	-	1.0	1.4	2.0	-
T <sub>2</sub> GA <sub>3</sub> at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	1.0	1.2	1.4	3.2	1.0	1.0	2.2	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.2	1.0	1.0	1.2	2.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
T <sub>3</sub> SA 5.0 m M	1.0	2.0	3.2	5.4	1.0	1.2	2.8	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.2	3.0	1.0	1.2	1.8	2.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.8
T <sub>4</sub> Polythene Bagging	1.0	4.6	5.4	-	1.0	3.6	4.6	-	4.0	3.0	2.2	-	1.0	1.8	2.8	-	1.0	1.8	1.8	-
T <sub>5</sub> Newspaper Bagging	1.0	4.8	5.6	-	1.0	4.2	4.8	-	4.0	2.4	1.6	-	1.0	2.4	3.4	-	1.0	2.0	2.2	-
T <sub>6</sub> Wax Coating at 60 g L <sup>-1</sup>	1.0	2.8	4.6	5.6	1.0	1.2	3.2	3.4	4.0	4.0	3.8	2.8	1.0	2.6	3.2	3.2	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.6
T <sub>7</sub> MH at 500 mgL <sup>-1</sup>	1.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	1.0	2.4	3.8	4.4	4.0	3.6	2.8	2.6	1.0	1.4	1.4	2.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.8
T <sub>8</sub> Straw Covering	1.0	5.0	5.8	-	1.0	3.8	4.8	-	4.0	2.6	2.0	-	1.0	1.6	2.6	-	1.0	2.8	2.8	-
T <sub>9</sub> Control	1.0	5.4	6.0	-	1.0	4.6	5.0	-	4.0	2.0	1.4	-	1.0	2.0	3.6	-	1.0	1.8	3.0	-

Sarananda (2002). However, the degree of colour break varied among the different treatments. Out of the nine treatments under study, GA<sub>3</sub> at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (T<sub>2</sub>) caused retardation of peel colour change (average score: 3.2, quarter yellow; at 15 DAS). Similar result was reported by Obrero (2006) that GA lengthens shelf life, delay ripening and peel colour change in queen pineapple. It was reported that gibberellins have been found to regulate ageing process in many plant tissues including fruits (Vendrell, 1970). GA caused regreening in citrus fruit (Coggins and Lewis, 1962) and delayed the appearance of red colour pigmentation in tomatoes (Dostal and Leopald, 1967). Even after 15 days of storage of pineapple fruits at room temperature, there were no full colour development of fruit skin, when the fruits were treated with MH at 500 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (average score: 5, three quarter yellow) or SA at 5.0 m M (average score: 5.4, three quarter yellow). Hakim et al. (2013) opined that GA<sub>3</sub>, MH has the ability to retain the total chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b, which caused delaying in colour development in banana fruit. Influence of SA on colour development was reported by Nemeth et al. (2002).

### 3.2. Flesh colour

Generally, flesh colour of pineapple fruit also changed through ripening process. It was recorded that there were consistent increase in flesh colour score during the period of storage. Fruits kept under control attained maximum flesh colour (average score: 5, golden yellow) at 10 DAS (Table 2). Flesh colour of fruit become yellow for T<sub>1</sub> (NAA at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>), T<sub>4</sub> (polythene bagging), T<sub>5</sub> (newspaper bagging) and T<sub>8</sub> (straw

cover) within 10 days of storage. It signified that the fruits got faster ripening within 10 days of storage under these treatments. However, at 15 DAS, flesh colour remained more white than yellow for fruits treated with GA<sub>3</sub> (T<sub>2</sub>), SA (T<sub>3</sub>) or coated with wax (T<sub>6</sub>) which manifested delaying of ripening. Prasad and Singh (1993) reported that paraffin coating and GA<sub>3</sub> delayed ripening in banana.

### 3.3. Skin texture

Firmness of fruit gradually decreases through the period of storage. Present study revealed that fruits at control (T<sub>9</sub>) or covered with perforated newspaper bags lost its firmness (average score: 1.4 to 1.6, soggy and soft) within 10 days of storage, whereas, fruits were moderately firm (average score: 3 to 3.2) when treated with GA<sub>3</sub> at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (T<sub>2</sub>) or SA at 5.0 m M (T<sub>3</sub>), even at 15 DAS (Table 2). Othman (2008) described that fruit firmness decreased as fruit mature. Fruit ripening and softening of vegetative tissues are usually accompanied by catabolism of cell wall polysaccharides (hemicellulose). The breakdown of polymeric carbohydrates, especially pectic substances and hemicelluloses, weaken cell walls and caused reduction in fruit firmness.

### 3.4. Crown condition

It was observed that crown condition was good with slight development of yellow colour at tip in most of the treatments up to 5 DAS. Crown condition score of the fruits was found maximum for control (average score: 3.6, moderate, dry tips and yellowing) at 10 DAS, whereas it was relatively low

(average score: 2- 2.2, good with slight tip yellowing) in case of fruits at  $T_2$  and  $T_7$  even at 15 DAS (Table 2). However, fruits coated with wax at  $60 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  ( $T_6$ ) showed relatively higher crown condition score (average score: 2.6-3.2) during the storage period. Othman (2008) got similar observation and reported that reduction in crown quality in Gandul pineapple was hastened by paraffin and semper fresh coatings. However, it was opined that crown deterioration is a natural process of senescence and is not a physiological disorder of pineapple. Storage temperature also affected the freshness of crown; the higher the storage temperature, the faster the discolouration of the crown (Abdullah et al., 1985).

### 3.5. Flesh translucency

Fruits at control showed higher flesh translucency (average score: 3; more than 50% translucency) within 10 DAS. Fruits treated with NAA at  $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  and covered with perforated newspaper bag or straw showed less than 50% flesh translucency at 10 DAS (Table 2). However, fruit flesh translucency score was quite low (average score: 1.2 to 1.6, 100% opaque) in case of the fruits treated with  $\text{GA}_3$  at  $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  or coated with wax at  $60 \text{ g L}^{-1}$ . Flesh translucency is because of electrolyte leakage in the fruit flesh tissue (Chen and Paull, 2011). Othman (2008) reported that paraffin treated fruits were free from flesh translucency during storage.

### 3.6. External disease and fruit decay

At 15 DAS, incidence of external diseases (average score: 4) and fruit decay percentage was found maximum in fruit at control ( $T_0$ ). Fruits which were covered either with polythene/newspaper bag or straw showed severe external infection and high fruit decay score (average score: 5 to 6) at 15 DAS (Figure 1 and 2). But the fruits treated with  $\text{GA}_3$   $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  or SA at  $5.0 \text{ m M}$  showed significantly less or no external disease infections and fruit decay even at 15 DAS. Sudha et al. (2007) reported that  $\text{GA}_3$  arrest the growth and spread of micro organisms in Sapota. It was claimed that exogenous application of SA could enhance resistance to pathogen and delay post harvest decay

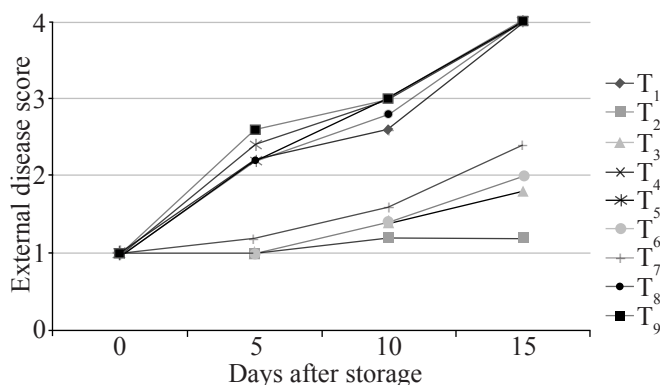


Figure 1: External disease of pineapple fruit during storage

(Asghari et al., 2010; Babalar et al., 2007).

### 3.7. Percentage of weight loss, decrease in length and diameter, and juice content

Percentage loss of fruit weight, decrease in fruit length and diameter was found minimum (11.34%, 2.76% and 2.51%) in case of fruits coated with wax at  $60 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  ( $T_6$ ) followed by fruits treated with  $\text{GA}_3$  at  $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  (11.61%, 3.56% and 3.34%) compared with other treatments at 15 DAS (Table 3). Kabir et al. (2010) reported that fruits treated with  $\text{GA}_3$   $200 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  were found to have minimum weight loss of pineapple fruits at 16<sup>th</sup> day of storage. It was observed by Hu et al. (2011) that waxing significantly reduced weight loss of pineapple fruits at storage. Fruit weight loss is mainly associated with respiration and moisture evaporation through the skin. Coating act as barriers, thereby restricting water transfer and protecting fruit skin from mechanical injuries and delayed dehydration (Hernandezmunoz et al., 2008). Juice content of the pineapple fruit increased along the period of storage in all the treatments. Dhar et al. (2008) got similar observation in pineapple cv. Giant Kew at Bangladesh. Though in the present study, juice content gradually increased, however, it remained low (71.63% and 72.09%) in case of fruits treated with SA ( $T_3$ ) or  $\text{GA}_3$  ( $T_2$ ) compared with other treatments at 15 DAS (Table 4), which signified delaying of fruit ripening under these treatments, as ripening accelerates the juice content of pineapple fruit (Othman, 2008).

### 3.8. Biochemical parameters

Except fruits at control, for the other treatments, total sugar and TSS content gradually increased up to 5 DAS and afterward declined. However, fruits under  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$  and  $T_6$  showed increase up to 10 DAS (Table 4 and 5). Kabir et al. (2010) also had similar kind of increase in TSS and total sugar content of pineapple fruit up to 12 DAS at ambient storage. During the storage period pineapple fruits showed increased acidity concurred with the earlier reporting of Paull (1997). However, titratable acidity was found low (1.01 and 1.02%) in fruits

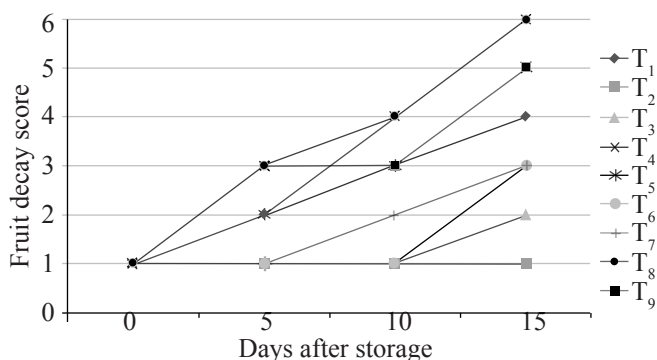


Figure 2: Fruit decay of pineapple during storage

Table 3: Effect of post-harvest treatments on percentage of weight loss, fruit length and diameter decrease during storage

Treatments	Weight loss (%) at DAS				Length decrease (%) at DAS				Diameter decrease (%) at DAS			
	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15
T <sub>1</sub> NAA at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	0.00	6.54	11.21	-	0.00 (1.28)	4.09 (11.66)	5.62 (13.71)	-	0.00 (1.28)	3.80 (11.24)	5.36 (13.39)	-
T <sub>2</sub> GA3 at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	0.00	2.68	7.14	11.61	0.00 (1.28)	1.56 (7.17)	2.52 (9.14)	3.56 (10.88)	0.00 (1.28)	1.33 (6.63)	2.29 (8.70)	3.34 (10.52)
T <sub>3</sub> SA 5.0 m M	0.00	3.48	8.70	13.04	0.00 (1.28)	2.59 (9.27)	3.50 (10.79)	5.26 (13.25)	0.00 (1.28)	2.36 (8.85)	3.25 (10.39)	4.43 (12.16)
T <sub>4</sub> Polythene Bagging	0.00	5.22	10.43	-	0.00 (1.28)	3.36 (10.56)	4.44 (12.16)	-	0.00 (1.28)	3.12 (10.17)	4.29 (11.95)	-
T <sub>5</sub> Newspaper Bagging	0.00	6.42	11.93	-	0.00 (1.28)	3.87 (11.34)	5.50 (13.56)	-	0.00 (1.28)	3.71 (11.10)	4.91 (12.80)	-
T <sub>6</sub> Wax Coating at 60 g L <sup>-1</sup>	0.00	2.06	7.22	11.34	0.00 (1.28)	1.07 (5.94)	2.07 (8.26)	2.76 (9.55)	0.00 (1.28)	1.05 (5.87)	1.88 (7.89)	2.51 (9.12)
T <sub>7</sub> MH at 500 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	0.00	5.04	9.24	12.61	0.00 (1.28)	2.81 (9.65)	3.55 (10.86)	5.69 (13.80)	0.00 (1.28)	2.63 (9.33)	3.29 (10.44)	4.79 (12.64)
T <sub>8</sub> Straw Covering	0.00	7.34	12.84	-	0.00 (1.28)	5.84 (13.98)	6.59 (14.88)	-	0.00 (1.28)	3.85 (11.32)	5.39 (13.43)	-
T <sub>9</sub> Control	0.00	8.85	14.16	-	0.00 (1.28)	6.32 (14.56)	6.86 (15.19)	-	0.00 (1.28)	5.25 (13.25)	6.45 (14.71)	-
SEm±	-	0.3592	0.2710	-	-	0.2736	0.1965	-	-	0.6370	0.4482	-
CD ( <i>p</i> =0.05)	-	0.7546	0.5694	-	-	0.5749	0.4128	-	-	1.3382	0.9417	-

\*Angular transformed value in parenthesis

Table 4: Effect of post-harvest treatments on percentage of juice content, total sugar and ascorbic acid content of fruit during storage

Treatments	Juice content (%) at DAS				Total sugar (%) at DAS				Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g pulp) at DAS			
	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15
T <sub>1</sub> NAA at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	63.48	68.96	72.36	-	11.78	12.52	12.36	-	20.52	17.92	15.82	-
T <sub>2</sub> GA3 at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	64.59	67.42	69.13	72.09	12.53	13.36	14.38	13.67	22.73	21.78	20.21	18.49
T <sub>3</sub> SA 5.0 m M	63.94	67.13	70.24	71.63	12.59	13.28	13.78	13.32	23.14	20.83	19.62	16.85
T <sub>4</sub> Polythene bagging	65.27	69.08	70.45	-	11.81	12.53	11.79	-	20.16	16.74	14.83	-
T <sub>5</sub> Newspaper bagging	63.56	68.37	71.26	-	11.13	11.76	11.58	-	19.29	15.82	13.68	-
T <sub>6</sub> Wax coating at 60 g L <sup>-1</sup>	64.21	68.06	71.42	73.47	12.49	13.39	13.25	13.18	19.86	16.23	14.39	11.83
T <sub>7</sub> MH at 500 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	65.63	68.19	70.53	72.92	11.86	12.54	12.42	12.27	20.39	19.53	17.13	14.87
T <sub>8</sub> Straw covering	63.84	68.26	71.22	-	10.09	10.61	10.49	-	18.86	14.82	12.29	-
T <sub>9</sub> Control	65.43	69.56	71.08	-	11.18	11.64	10.23	-	18.92	13.69	11.28	-
SEm±	0.3997	0.3864	0.4468	-	0.1843	0.1541	0.4873	-	0.6228	0.4697	0.4957	-
CD ( <i>p</i> =0.05)	0.8398	0.8119	0.9387	-	0.3161	0.2643	0.8360	-	1.3084	0.9869	1.0415	-

treated with GA<sub>3</sub> or SA at 15 DAS. Ascorbic acid content of the fruit was maximum (18.86 to 23.14 mg 100 g pulp<sup>-1</sup>) on 0 DAS and it declined afterwards. Adisa (1986) noticed that ascorbic acid content of pineapple gradually decreased with the

increase in storage period. In terms of biochemical parameters, fruits treated with GA<sub>3</sub> at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> showed higher amount of TSS (20.41 °Brix), TSS : acid ratio (20.21), total sugar (13.67%), ascorbic acid content (18.49 mg 100 g pulp<sup>-1</sup>) at 15



Table 5: Effect of post-harvest treatments on changes in total soluble solid, titratable acidity and their ratio of pineapple fruit during storage

Treatments	TSS (°Brix) at DAS				Titratable acidity (%) at DAS				TSS: Acid ratio at DAS			
	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15	0	5	10	15
T <sub>1</sub> NAA at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	15.80	17.32	14.46	-	1.09	1.18	1.22	-	14.50	14.68	11.85	-
T <sub>2</sub> GA <sub>3</sub> at 100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	16.76	18.81	20.52	20.41	0.89	0.96	0.98	1.01	18.83	19.59	20.94	20.21
T <sub>3</sub> SA 5.0 m M	16.43	17.78	19.42	19.12	0.84	0.87	0.91	1.02	19.56	20.44	21.34	18.75
T <sub>4</sub> Polythene Bagging	15.71	18.23	17.21	-	0.98	1.11	1.21	-	16.03	16.42	14.22	-
T <sub>5</sub> Newspaper Bagging	16.25	16.79	15.56	-	1.02	1.14	1.21	-	15.93	14.73	12.86	-
T <sub>6</sub> Wax Coating at 60 g L <sup>-1</sup>	16.47	17.26	17.82	17.64	1.05	1.09	1.15	1.18	15.69	15.83	15.50	14.95
T <sub>7</sub> MH at 500 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	16.40	17.75	17.29	17.09	0.92	1.01	1.14	1.19	17.83	17.57	15.17	14.36
T <sub>8</sub> Straw Covering	15.49	17.02	16.43	-	0.98	1.01	1.12	-	15.81	16.85	14.67	-
T <sub>9</sub> Control	16.85	15.83	13.08	-	1.01	1.19	1.31	-	16.68	13.30	9.98	-
SEm±	0.2213	0.4605	0.7607	-	0.1093	0.0442	0.0409	-	0.3770	0.5818	0.5648	-
CD ( <i>p</i> =0.05)	0.3796	0.7900	1.3049	-	0.1875	0.0759	0.0702	-	0.6467	0.9981	0.9689	-

DAS. Kabir et al. (2010) also found high TSS, total sugar and ascorbic acid content of pineapple fruits treated with GA<sub>3</sub> at 300 mg L<sup>-1</sup> during ambient storage.

### 3.9. Shelf life

There were significant variations in shelf life of the pineapple due to different treatment under study (Figure 3). Maximum shelf life (19.05 days) was observed in case of the fruits treated with GA<sub>3</sub> (T<sub>2</sub>) followed by T<sub>3</sub> i.e. treated with SA at 5.0 m M (17.05 days) compared with control (10.30 days). Dhar et al. (2008) reported GA<sub>3</sub> (100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) treated pineapple fruits got 20.77 days of shelf life when kept under room temperature. Gholami et al. (2010) reported that GA<sub>3</sub> treated sweet cherry fruit got delayed ripening as it decreased the ethylene production. Hakim et al. (2013) observed maximum shelf life (13.0 days) in banana fruit when treated with GA<sub>3</sub> at 400 ppm. Lu et al. (2010) observed that post harvest treatment with 5.0 m M SA delayed ripening and extended shelf life of pineapple cv. Comte de Paris.

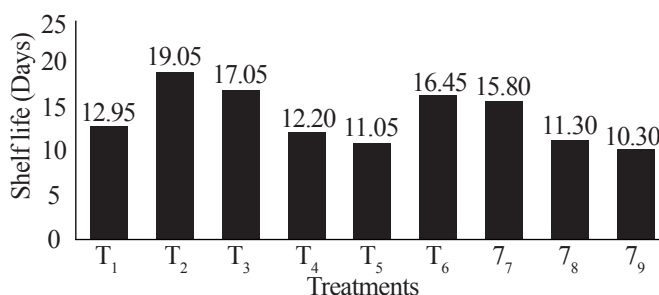


Figure 3: Shelf life of pineapple fruits under different post-harvest treatments

## 4. Conclusion

The result of the present experiment showed that GA<sub>3</sub> at 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> as the best post harvest treatment to extend the shelf life while maintaining the fruit physico-chemical qualities of Pineapple cv. Giant Kew during storage at room temperature.

## 5. References

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