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- Morphology, Structure, Development
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- Ethylene
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Classifications of Horticultural Crops and Their Usefulness in Relation to Postharvest Considerations

- Botanical classification
- Classification by geographical origin
- General groups of horticultural commodities
- Subgroups within general groups
- Grouping by plant parts

Grouping by Plant Parts				
Edible plant part	Examples			
Entire plant	Beet, radish, potted plants			
Shoot	Green onion, cut flowers			
Root primary	Carrot, turnip			
secondary	Sweet potato, cassava			
Stem	Asparagus, kohlrabi大头菜			
Tuber	Potato, yam, several ornamentals			
Leaf mainly leaf blade	Leaf lettuce, spinach			
mainly petiole	Celery, rhubarb			
buds	Cabbage, head lettuce			
Floral parts	Cut flowers, artichokes, cauliflower			
Bulb	Onion, several ornamentals			
Fruits fleshy, mature	Apples, pears, peaches, berries, grapes, citrus, melons, tomatoes, winter (hard-rind) squash			
fleshy, immature	Cucumbers, summer (soft-rind)			
non fleshy, immature	Peas, green beans, okra黄秋葵, sweetcorn			
non fleshy, mature	Seeds and nuts			

Grouping by Plant Parts

- This classification is the most useful in relation to postharvest considerations since, in most cases, commodities within a given group have similar postharvest requirements and recommendations.
- Couple with knowledge of geographical origin, which relates to chilling injury susceptibility

Morphological Structure of Horticultural Commodities

• A diversity of plant parts and their structures are represented by harvested fruits and vegetables





Morphological Structure of Horticultural Commodities

• Note also the diversity of tissues that can develop into fruit flesh. All parts of the total inflorescence structure are, in one species or another, developed into fruit flesh





Relationsh commodi	ip between structure of horticultural ties and their postharvest behavior
Group	General postharvest characteristics
Rapidly growing vegetative and immature fruit structure	-Highly perishable -Usually high respiration rate -Rapid chemical changes -Weight loss is a major cause of deterioration -Continued growth can be a problem
Mature fruits	-Vary in perishability from very high (Strawberry) to low (apple) -Undergo many physiological and compositional changes associated with ripening -Decay can be an important deterioration factor -Moisture content is important to storage-life -Germination can be a factor

Relationshi commoditi (Cont.)	b between structure of horticultural es and their postharvest behavior				
Group	General postharvest characteristics				
Fleshy storage	-Low perishability				
organs and	-Low respiration rate				
propagules	-Growth can accelerate deterioration				
Mature seeds	-Very low perishability				
and nuts	-Very low respiration rate				
	-Moisture content is important to storage life				
	-Germination can be a factor				

Tissue systems and component cells

- The dermal system (protective tissues) 表皮
- The ground system
- Supporting tissues
- Vascular tissues



Tissue systems and component cells

- The dermal system (Protective tissues)
 - Epidermal cells
 - The cuticle
 - Stomates
 - Lenticels
 - Trichomes毛状体
 - Periderm (cork) (周皮)

Tissue systems and component cells

- The ground system
 - Parenchyma cells constitute most of the edible portion of an apple or a potato, etc.
 - Intercellular spaces constitute about 20% in fruits and roots, >20% in leaves.





Tissue systems and component cells
 Supporting tissues

 Collenchyma cells - largely responsible for stringiness in celery stalks // Patternethyma cells
 Sclerenchyma cells // Patternethyma fibers are major constituents of the "string" in green beans.
 Sclereids (stone cells) in the flesh of certain fruits (e.g., guava, pear, sapote), cox are responsible for their gritty or sandy texture.

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Tissue systems and component cells

- Vascular tissues
 - Xylem
 - Phloem
 - Laticifers (latex-producing cells in papaya, banana, etc.)





Significance of Morphological Structure and Growth in Postharvest Considerations

- Relation to maturity and quality
- Changes after harvest
 - Growth -sprouting, rooting, elongation, seed germination.
 - Toughening (due to increased lignification); fiber content.
 - Softening (due to changes in cell wall).
 - Wound periderm (formed in response to wounding).
 Increased thickness of cuticle and wax deposits with fruit ripening.

Significance of Morphological Structure and Growth in Postharvest Considerations

- Influence on susceptibility to mechanical damage
- Relation of the dermal system to physiology and deterioration
 - Gas exchange (O_2, CO_2, C_2H_4) .
 - Moisture loss
 - Entry of pathogens
 - Penetration of chemicals
 - Resistance to temperature and physical stress

Growth and Development of Plant Parts

- Growth: The irreversible increase in physical attributes of a developing plant or plant part
- Development: The series of processes from the initiation of growth to death of a plant or plant part



- Maturation: The stage of development leading to the attainment of physiological or horticultural maturity.
- Ripening: The composite of the processes that occur from the latter stages of growth and development through the early stages of senescence and that result in characteristic esthetic and/or food quality, as evidenced by changes in composition, color, texture, or other sensory attributes
- Horticultural maturity: The stage of development when a plant or plant part possesses the prerequisites for utilization by consumers for a particular purpose
- Physiological maturity: The stage of development when a plant or plant part will continue ontogeny even if detached

- Climacteric period: The period in the development of some plant organs involving a series of biochemical changes associated with the natural respiratory rise and autocatalytic production of ethylene
- Senescence: Those processes that follow physiological maturity or horticultural maturity and lead to death of tissue
- Aging: Any increment of time, which may or may not be accompanied by physiological change

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More on "Maturity "...

- "Horticultural maturity " is based on a relative scheme
 - Can refer to any stage of organ development
- "Physiological maturity" means that the plant organ has fulfilled its biological purpose
 - e.g. a fully expanded leaf or a fruit that is able to ripen on or off the plant

Importance of Stage of Development

- Time of harvest
- Quality when harvested
- Frequency of harvest ("harvest window")
- Potential for mechanical harvest
- Intended use
- Behavior after harvest