



# CLIMATE VARIABLES AND THEIR RELATION TO FRUIT QUALITY

	January				February				March				April				May				June				July				August				September				October				November				December							
	MONTH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
<b>WEATHER CONDITIONS</b>	High rainfall with cold temperatures Cold conditions in the Tropics				Low rainfall Hot weather conditions				High rainfall with with hot temperatures				Low rainfall Very hot weather				High rainfall with cold temperatures Cold conditions in the Tropics																																			
<b>BRIX</b> (Sugar Level)	Cold weather slows plant growth and brix development of fruit. Harvest age should be increased to achieve better brix readings but heavy rain may increase the risk of undesirable levels of translucency				Much warmer days and lower rainfall during this season allow the farms to increase harvesting age of the fruit. Higher brix is the result of this				Ideal for brix development. This is the period when the NDF (Natural differentiated fruit) is harvested. Our farms have controlled the age of fruit in previous months (January, February) by placing a ribbon on each plant. Natural fruit is packed and palletized separately from induced fruit. A decrease in harvest age may be necessary to avoid translucency problems, which are caused by heavy rainfall.				Weather conditions result in higher brix.				Cold weather slows plant growth and brix development of fruit. Harvest age should be increased to achieve better brix readings but heavy rain may increase the risk of undesirable levels of translucency																																			
<b>PSI</b> (Internal Pressure of Fruit)	As brix levels drop, fruit firmness should be increased as there is a direct correlation between brix and PSI.				As the brix increases, fruit firmness moderates. This is a period of good balance between brix and PSI.				Consistency of induced fruit should be normal. It may become relatively lower for NDF fruit due to a higher brix level.				Weather conditions result in desired PSI results.				As brix level drops, fruit firmness should increase as there is a direct correlation between brix and PSI.																																			
<b>EXTERNAL SHELL COLOR</b>	It is very difficult to achieve good external color during this period due to excessive rain, lack of sun and low brix.				Warmer days, less rain and higher brix usually allows the fruit to develop a good shell color				Conditions are favorable for the development of good shell color. It is best for NDF fruit to be harvested at a younger age, which results in a lower shell color, but normal translucency.				A balance of sun with some rainfall during the day is the ideal weather condition for fruit development. During this period of high temperatures and very dry days, it may become difficult to achieve good shell color.				It is very difficult to achieve good external color during this period due to excessive rain, lack of sun and low brix.																																			
<b>INTERNAL COLOR</b>	During this period it's difficult to obtain high yellow coloration (B, B- according to our specification charts)				Normal (B according to our specification charts)				Normal. It's desirable to lower down the condition of the fruit to avoid issues with NDF fruit				Normal				During this period it's difficult to obtain high yellow coloration (B, B- according to our specification charts)																																			
<b>LONG CROWNS</b>									Frequent during July and August																																											
<b>BURNT CROWNS</b>	Very frequent during this period of the year due to lack of sun. Investigations to reduce continue at the farm level. The farms have implemented various operational changes in practices to minimize this effect.																Very frequent during this period of the year due to lack of sun. Investigations to reduce continue at the farm level. The farms have implemented various operational changes in practices to minimize this effect.																																			
<b>CORCHOSIS</b> (CONICAL FRUIT)	Frequent due to hot and dry days during formation of the fruit that occurred in the months of September and October.								Relatively Frequent								Frequent due to hot and dry days during formation of the fruit that occurred in the months of September and October.																																			
<b>INSECTS</b>	Frequent attacks of Thecla and Espodoptera develop "gomosis" on the base of the fruit. Small scars on the shell of the fruit can								Thecla and Gomosis can be found at the end of the rainy period.								Frequent attacks of Thecla and Espodoptera develop "gomosis" on the base of the fruit. Small scars on the shell of the fruit can be found																																			