

SUGGESTIONS TO DELAY HARVESTING OF POMEGRANATE FRUITS

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Pomegranate orchards regulated for flowering in late hasta bahar/October-Nov, 2019, will be ready for harvest in April-May, 2020. In view of the present coronavirus situation where farmers face marketing problem, may like to delay harvest. We are giving here some guidelines that may help to delay harvest by few days.

In pomegranate fully mature fruit should be harvested and take care to harvest at the right time. If the fruits are harvested premature, the fruit quality will not be good as pomegranate fruits mature on tree only and not after harvest. It will also have less storage life if harvested premature.

Again, if the fruits on the tree have matured and not harvested then also the fruit quality deteriorates as well as aril browning and fruit cracking in delayed harvest may result in losses.

Some of the measures that can be taken in orchards to delay harvest by 15-20 days and improve storage life are:

1. Provide regular irrigation, it will promote vegetative growth and delay ripening of fruit
2. Foliar sprays of salicylic acid @ 0.3g/l (300 ppm) or gibberellic acid GA3@ 0.02g /l (20 ppm) may promote vegetative growth thereby delay ripening of fruits.
3. Spraying of nutrients like calcium nitrate @ 2% and KH_2PO_4 @ 2% may delay ripening of fruits and improve storage life of fruits.
4. Please note, **don't go for micronutrient application, it will hasten fruit ripening.**