

Anak Pakcharoen 2008: Effect of Harvesting Time and Shading on Uneven Fruit Ripening of Mon-Thong Durians (*Durio zibethinus* Murray cv. Mon-Thong). Master of Science (Agriculture), Major Field: Horticulture, Department of Horticulture. Thesis Advisor: Professor Jingtair Siriphanich, Ph.D. 79 pages.

Uneven fruit ripening is often found in Mon-Thong durian. This defect can not be detected from external appearance. Its cause is unknown. It was suggested that perhaps too early harvesting and leave flushing were the most probable causes of the problem. To establish this, Mon-Thong durians were harvested at 106 and 113 day after anthesis (DAA), in order to evaluate whether the maturity stage was related to uneven fruit ripening. The less mature durians were found to have higher uneven fruit ripening characteristic, including higher variation in pulp dry weight, soluble solids and firmness. To determine that food competition between fruit and other developing parts such as the flushing leaves was also related to uneven fruit ripening, bearing durian trees were shaded by 50 % using Saran net for one or three weeks. It was found that durians from shaded trees had higher uneven fruit ripening characteristic than those from the control trees. It was also found that treating the fruits with high concentration of ethephon could not alleviate uneven fruit ripening symptom.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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