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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY
FOR
FRUIT CROPS**

**Thirty-Fifth Session
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DEFINITION OF MATURITY OF FRUIT

Document prepared by an expert from New Zealand

1. At the thirty-fourth session of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF), held in Niagara Falls, Canada, from September 29 to October 3, 2003, it was agreed that the TWF should seek to develop a standardized definition for maturity of fruit.

2. The following definition is proposed for eating maturity:

Eating maturity: the period when a fruit has reached optimum color, flavor, aroma, firmness and texture for consumption. Depending on the plant species or type of fruit, this period can occur directly after removal from the tree (e.g. early pipfruit varieties, peach, cherry, citrus) or after a period of storage or conditioning (e.g. later pipfruit varieties, avocado, banana).

3. A definition for harvest maturity has not been developed because there are only a few Test Guidelines (e.g. Persimmon, TG/92/4) where this is of significance. In such cases, specific explanations are included in the Test Guidelines. In most cases the harvest maturity will be defined by the eating maturity. For avocado, harvest is at the stage that allows optimum eating maturity.

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