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# UPDATE ON APPLE INJURY STUDY

By

James B. Fountain  
USDA/ARS  
Wenatchee, Washington

## Problem Addressed

Maintaining apple quality and reduction of losses from injury. Apple sales depend to a considerable extent on appearance as well as internal quality. Development of new or improved methods of handling.

## Methodology Used

Sampling of apples at various points within the packinghouse, after storage, after transit, in the backroom of the retail store, and off the retail shelf. Sampling was done at early, mid, and late marketing seasons. The bruise size scale was: 1) up to

1/4 inch in diameter; 2) 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter; 3) 1/2 to 3/4 inch; 4) 3/4 to 1 inch; and 5) 1 inch or larger. A weighting system calculated on an area basis of the bruise was used to develop a bruise index.

## Anticipated Major Findings

Identify where bruising occurs, how frequently, how severe, and suggest means by which this information could be used to reduce bruise injury. Reduction of fruit injury should increase efficiency in handling and distribution and help in keeping costs down.