

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



*XIV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium
"Agrosym 2023"
Jahorina, October 05-08, 2023*



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRAINED PANEL GROUP AND CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS: CASE STUDY ON NEW PEAR SELECTIONS

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Abstract

The study was conducted to determine whether the evaluations traditionally made by the breeding expert panel group reflect the consumer's liking in defining the sensory qualities of newly developed pear cultivars. Five pear genotypes, developed through crossbreeding, and three commercial pear cultivars (Deveci, Santa Maria and Kieffer) were used in the study. An expert panel group and 200 pear consumers evaluated the pears according to their sensory attributes. Hedonic liking scale (1-9) was used in the evaluations. The similarities/differences of the liking of both groups were determined by independent t-test. Overall, the expert panel group scored higher on all quality criteria. Significant differences in liking were found between the two groups, particularly in terms of exterior fruit quality parameters. It was once again understood that experience has a strong influence on taste or decision-making processes. The expert panel group was completely incapable of evaluating genotypes with unusual sensory characteristics as compatible with consumer liking. Studies to provide an alternative assessment of the quality of new cultivars to consumer panel methods still seem important.

Keywords: *Expert panel group, Sensory evaluation, Pyrus communis, Fruit texture.*