Claudia Fuentealba is Assistant Professor of the School of Food Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso, Chile. Her research lines are metabolomics of fruits during postharvest storage and evaluation of bioactive compounds and biochemical changes in plant foods. In the last 5 years, Dr. Fuentealba has published 19 research articles and led investigation regarding the postharvest quality of fruits like avocados, walnuts and sweet cherries.

Title: "Development of new fruit physiological disorders in a changing environment"

Abstract

Climate change has modified temperature and precipitations and is expected to have a huge impact on reducing global crop productivity. Fruits and vegetables are key for human health since they are rich sources of antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, among others. However, its production and quality deeply depend on whole plant physiology related to the immediate environment. Fruit production under extreme conditions has impacted not only yields but resulted in unpredicted fruit quality. Currently, our research group is studying fruit physiological disorders associated to current changing environment, such as internal browning of walnuts and black spots the in epidermis of the avocados.