

Study on the effective pollination period (EPP) of some local sweet cherry cultivars in Iran

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Most of sweet cherry cultivars are self-incompatible, so for fruit set they need suitable pollination with compatible cultivars. In addition for suitable fruit set simultaneous flowering of compatible cultivars and suitable pollen in appropriate time of stigmal longevity is important. This experiment were carried out in order to explore the effective pollination period (EPP) on 4 important local commercial cultivars. In each cultivar at least 60 flower buds in each shoot was selected with 3 replications. Selected shoots were protected with cotton tissue bag before hand pollination. For determination of EPP hand pollination was carried out at the balloon stage, anthesis and 2, 4, 6 and 8 days after full bloom. Result showed significant differences between times of pollination in terms of percentage of fruit set. In conclusion, the best time for pollination was at the time of anthesis and 2 days after full bloom.