



Tropical Products Transport Handbook

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Ethylene Sensitivity

Never transport or store fruits and vegetables that produce a lot of ethylene with products that are sensitive to it. Ethylene can cause premature ripening of some products and will ruin others, such as plants and cut flowers. Cucumbers and celery turn yellow in the presence of ethylene, while lettuce will turn brown. Potassium permanganate pads can be used to absorb ethylene during transit and storage. Table 8 lists products that produce ethylene along with products that are sensitive to it.

Table 8: Products that are ethylene producers or ethylene sensitive

Ethylene producers:		Ethylene sensitive:	
apples	mangosteen	bananas, unripe	leafy greens
apricots	nectarines	Belgian endive	lettuce
avocados	papayas	broccoli	okra
bananas, ripening	passionfruit	brussels sprouts	parsley
cantaloupes	peaches	cabbage	peas
cherimoya	pears	carrots	peppers
figs	persimmons	cauliflower	potted plants
guavas	plantains	chard	spinach
honeydew melons	plums	cucumbers	squash
kiwifruit, ripe	prunes	cut flowers	sweetpotatoes
mamey	quinces	eggplant	watercress
mangoes	rambutan	florist greens	watermelon
	tomatoes	green beans	yams
		kiwifruit, unripe	

Odor Sensitivity

Never transport or store odorous products with products that will absorb the odors. Table 9 lists products that produce odors with products that can absorb them.

Table 9: Products which produce or absorb odors

Odor produced by:	Will be absorbed by:
apples.....	cabbage, carrots, celery, figs, onions, meat, eggs, dairy products
avocados	pineapples
carrots	celery
citrus fruit	meat, eggs, dairy products
ginger root	eggplant
grapes fumigated w/	other fruits and vegetables
sulfur dioxide	
leeks	figs, grapes
onions, dry.....	apples, celery, pears
onions, green.....	corn, figs, grapes, mushrooms, rhubarb
pears	cabbage, carrots, celery, onions, potatoes
potatoes.....	apples, pears
peppers, green.....	pineapples
"strongly scented.....	citrus fruit
vegetables"	