

Dr. Peter M.A. Toivonen is a Postharvest Physiologist working in the Food Research Program, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre in Summerland, British Columbia, Canada. He has been with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada since 1989. He is a retired associate editor with Postharvest Biology and Technology and currently remains as a member of the editorial board for that journal. Dr. Toivonen has been active in many working groups under the Commission Quality and Postharvest Horticulture, most notably serving to support the establishment of a working group on Fresh Cut Fruit and Vegetable Quality. During his career, he has worked on at-harvest and post-harvest quality in vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits (sweet cherries, apples, and stone fruits). Dr. Toivonen has focused his research on the topic of internal quality at harvest and quality changes occurring during storage for apples, sweet cherries, blueberries and raspberries destined for both fresh market and for processing. He is currently working on characterizing internal quality attributes of new apple and cherry cultivars using non-destructive instrumentation based on visible-near infrared spectroscopy. Dr. Toivonen is working at assessing the impact of growing season weather patterns and production practices such as irrigation strategies and nitrogen nutrition on the at harvest internal quality in apples and cherries and their effect on consequent changes during storage or shipping.