

# Change in Apricot Fruit Quality along an Altitudinal Gradient in Trans- Himalaya, India

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**Abstract**—*One hundred and sixty two genotypes of apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* L.) were collected from nine different locations along an altitude gradient of trans-Himalayan Ladakh. The altitude of collection site ranged from 9861 to 10978 ft above sea level. A small change in altitude caused significant change in pomological and fruit quality characters of apricot. Linear regression analysis revealed that full blooming date, fruit harvest date and TSS increases with an increase in altitude where as fruit weight and moisture content decreases with an increase in altitude. For every 200 ft increase in altitude TSS increase by 0.8<sup>o</sup>Brix and, fruit weight and moisture content decrease by 0.4 gm and 1.2 %, respectively. Two way ANOVA showed a predominant altitudinal effect on pomological and fruit quality characters as compared to the seed coat colour and kernel taste. Elevation influenced not only the morphology of fruit but also in quality of fruit. Our results revealed with increase in elevation, morphology of fruit and fruit quality influences to a certain mark.*