Non Destructive Firmness Measurement for Bartlett Pears

Jim Thompson & David Slaughter Biological & Ag. Engineering Dept. UC Davis

Goal

 Evaluate non destructive firmness measurement devices for pears.
 Consider high firmness levels at harvest and low levels during ripening.

Sinclair

- Bench top unit
- \$5000+





Comparison with Penetrometer



Calibration with Penetrometer

 For Pears > 15 lbs firmness:
 Sinclair unit x 0.37 - 2.6 = Penetrometer (or set standards using new units)

• Not accurate below 15 lbs firmness.

Durometer

- Use 'E' tip for pears
- Hand held
- Stand mounted
- \$600 \$1100



Durometer Sources

- Durometers are available from a number of companies, for example:
- Corporate Consulting, Service & Instruments, Inc.
 Tel: 330.376.3600 / 800.742.8535
 http://www.ccsi-inc.com
- Gaging.com
 Tel: 702.456.2264
 www.gaging.com

Schematic of Operation



Comparison with Penetrometer



Calibration with Penetrometer

• For Pears >10lbs firmness:

Durometer reading - 70 = Penetrometer firmness