

Packaging for Soft Pears

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Project Goals

- Develop a packaging system allowing soft, ripe pears to be marketed. Consider both retail and food service markets.



Background

- Tight fill packaging is difficult to implement.
- Air ride suspension helps.
- Bagging fruit helps.
- But none of the above completely solve the problem nor do they work for very soft fruit.



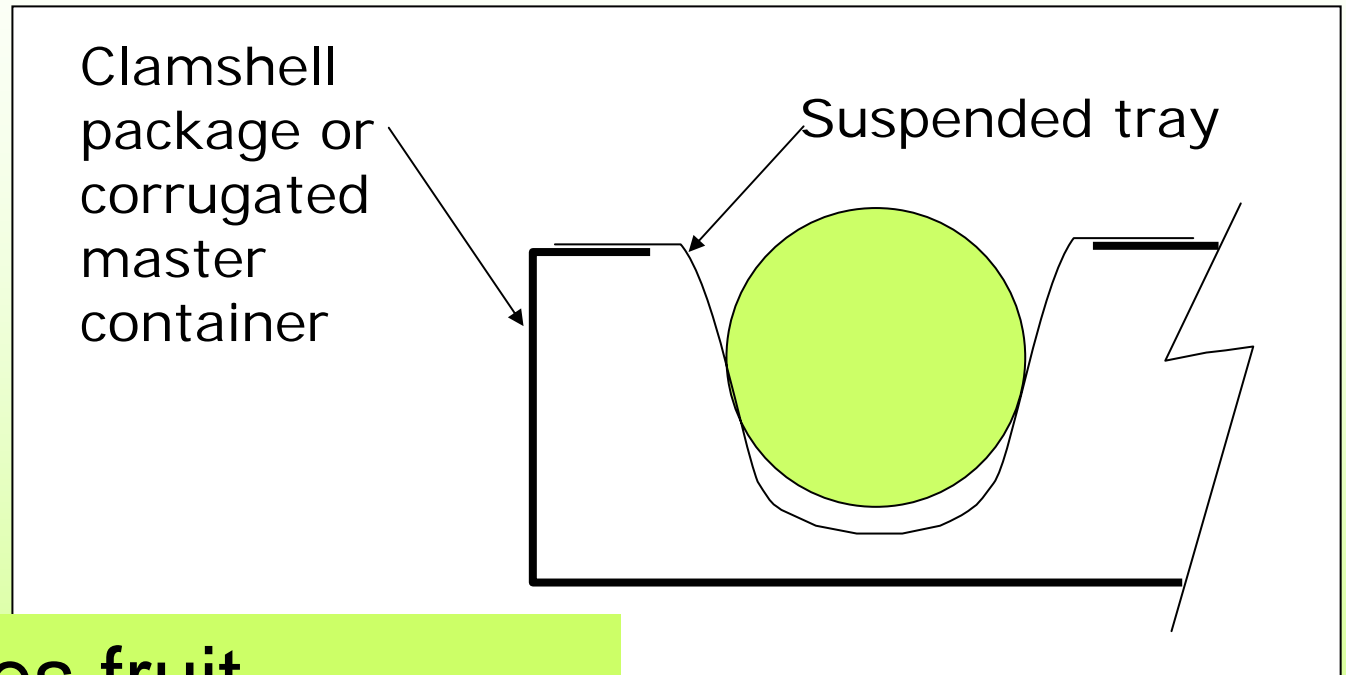
Bruising Damage

- Relative motion between fruit and any other solid object.
- Softer fruit are more damage susceptible.
- A lot of bruising happens at retail display.

UCD Suspended Tray 'Hammock Pack'

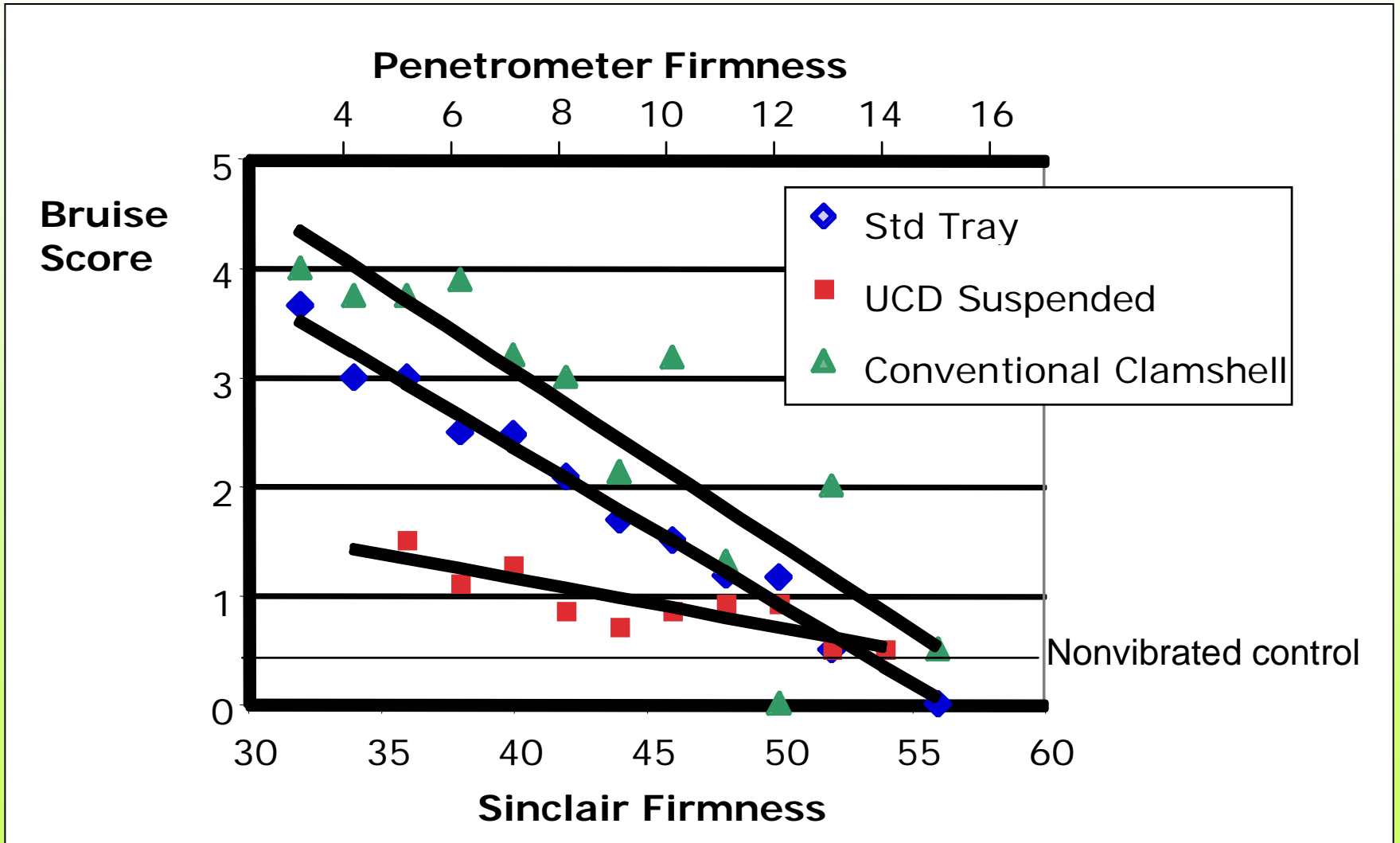


How Does it Work?



- Separates fruit.
- Immobilizes fruit.
- Clamshell protects fruit on display.

Testing



Cost

- Clamshell + tray = 44¢ ea.
 - 6 fruit /clamshell
 - 8 clams in a 2-layer Euro box
- Support and tray for a half Euro box = 77¢ ea.
- Packages are made by:
 - FDS Manufacturing Co.
 - Pomona, CA
 - (909) 591-1733