

Fruit Quality Tester

Specifications:

Units	Pounds, Kilograms or Newtons
Range:	44 Pounds 20 Kilos 196 Newtons
Accuracy	±0.2% ±1 LSD
Power	Rechargeable NiCad battery pack or AC adapter
Operating Temp	0° to 40°C
Overload	200% of F.S., Display flashes beyond 105% of F.S.
Low Bat. Ind.	Display flashes BAT when battery is low
Penetrating heads	8mm Diameter -Pears 11mm Diameter -Apples
Test Stand	Constructed of durable PVC
Software	Windows 95/98/XP/NT

Fruit Quality Tester (FQT)

The FQT is designed to accurately accumulate the texture readings of fruit or vegetable samples in a faster and more efficient manner. The system operates in conjunction with a standard PC and uses Windows®-based software to interrogate a digital force sensor. This sensor offers an improved accuracy over conventional mechanical type gauges such as the Effegi and Magness-Taylor instruments. The combination of sensor accuracy and the flexibility of the Windows software gives the user considerable control and confidence during the data collection process.

The FQT software allows the user to enter header information such as: operator, sample identifier, averaging intervals, and number of sides sampled. After entering the header information, the program proceeds to the collection menu. At this point the program is in a stand-by mode until a sample is taken. Once a sample is taken, the program stores the penetration profile, peak value and time of the reading and then will automatically advance to the next sample without requiring a keyboard entry. This insures the collection process flows as efficiently as possible.

The program's main collection menu is comprised of two sections, a readings display window and a graphical display module. The readings section is located on the left side of window and displays a running account of the information which has been collected. The graphical display module is used to display the penetration profile, as well as graph statistical information such as peak readings and frequency distributions.

The FQT has a feature which allows the user to set various settings such as the ability to set upper and lower time restrictions on the penetration of the sample. This gives the operator the ability to set filter protocols and reject readings outside these limits. This feature also serves to reduce operator variability and provide operator feedback. These option are set using the FQT's control panel

The data collected by the system is easily exported to other formats such as QuattroPro® or Excel®.

