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LONG-TERM STORAGE OF SUGAR BEET IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE

Conservation à long terme de la betterave sucrière dans le Nord-Ouest de l'Europe / Langzeitlagerung von Zuckerrüben in Nordwesteuropa

ABSTRACT

Sugar beet varieties differ in storability, possibly due to their susceptibility to damage and/or infection by moulds and rot. Storage losses are also strongly dependent on the beet growing conditions (location/soil, stress during the season, harvesting conditions). Root injuries during harvesting and clamping should be minimised, as they markedly increase rotting and thereby sugar losses. Complete removal of leaves, possibly in combination with slight topping, gives the lowest sugar losses during long-term storage, as over-topped beet are avoided. Treatment with lime during clamping can reduce pathogen infections.

Recommendations for optimal harvest and clamp management include protecting clamped beet from precipitation. Clean, dry beet allow gas exchange, which prevents heat accumulation and lowers the infection potential of moulds and rots. Frost damage should be avoided by harvesting the beet in time and covering the clamp with e.g. plastic sheeting, fleece, straw or canvas, which can provide some protection against frost.

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