

Supplementary Materials:

Table S1. Effect of gibberellic acid (GA) treatments on induced mechanical damage (fruit damage index) by compression and impact tests on 'Bing' and 'Lapins' sweet cherry cultivars. Treatments: T0 (control), 0 ppm GA and GA3 average of T30, 15+15 ppm GA (pit-hardening + straw-colour); T45, 25+20 ppm GA (pit-hardening + straw-colour) and T60, 30+30 ppm GA (pit-hardening + straw-colour).

		Treatment	Compression test	Impact test
Bing	Colour 3	T0	3.63	0.93 a
		GA3	3.52	1.62 b
		<i>p</i> -value	NS	0.0245
	Colour 3.5	T0	2.13	1.10
		GA3	2.13	0.91
		<i>p</i> -value	NS	NS
Lapins	Colour 3	T0	3.93	1.40
		GA3	3.68	1.38
		<i>p</i> -value	NS	NS
	Colour 3.5	T0	2.40	1.35
		GA3	2.83	1.20
		<i>p</i> -value	NS	NS

Each fruit was evaluated on an arbitrary 5-point scale where 0 = no pitting, 1 = mild pitting, 2 = moderate pitting, 3 = severe pitting and 4 = very severe pitting.

Different letters for each cultivar and colour show significantly different mean values for Fisher's LSD test, with *p*-value < 0.05. NS: non-significant at *p*-value < 0.05.