

Aloe vera extract may preserve food for longer.(Food Briefs)(Brief Article)



Chemistry and Industry; 10/17/2005; Walter, Patrick

An edible coating of aloe vera extract that could preserve fruit and vegetables for up to five times longer may be on the market within a year. Grapes sprayed with concentrated extract lasted for 35 days, compared to just seven days for untreated grapes.

A taste panel found that treated grapes had a better flavour and were firmer, heavier and retained their colour better than their untreated counterparts. The aloe gel contains the highly potent polyphenol antioxidants aloe emodin and aloe aloin. These protect the grapes from oxidants that cause decay and have anti-bacterial properties, preventing spoilage.

Researchers at the University of Miguel Hernandez, Spain, say the spray could reduce the use of synthetic preservatives (J Agric Food Chem 2005, 53, 7807).