ウメ '南高'の開花時期、採取時期と果実成分の関係および それらを原料として製造した梅酒品質への影響

大江孝明・桑原あき」・根来圭一・山田知史・菅井晴雄2

和歌山県農林水産総合技術センター 果樹試験場うめ研究所

Between the Time of Blooming and Harvest and Compositions of Japanese Apricot (*Prunus mume* sieb.et Zucc.)
'Nanko' Fruit, and Effects of Those Factors to Qualities of Processed Ume Liquor

Takaaki Oe, Aki Kuwabara, Keiichi Negoro, Satoshi Yamada and Haruo Sugai

Laboratory of Ume, Fruit Tree Experiment Station, Wakayama Reserch Center of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Higashihonjo, Minabe-cho, Wakayama 645-0021

摘 要

ウメ '南高'果実の開花期の早晩,採取時期,果実の大きさと果実および加工した梅酒の品質成分との関係について検討した. 完熟果落下盛期直前まではクエン酸含量は増加傾向であり,早期に開花した果実は肥大が緩やかで,果肉(果皮を含む)のクエン酸含量や β -カロテン含量の最高値は,中晩期に開花した果実の最高値よりも低かった. 梅酒のクエン酸含量,ポリフェノール含量,抗酸化能,褐色度は完熟落下盛期直前までは原料果実の採取が遅いほど増加傾向を示した. また,同一日に採取した果実では果実が大きいほどクエン酸,リンゴ酸,ソルビトール, β -カロテン含量が高い傾向であり,2L以上(選別基準直径37mm以上)の大きい果実を用いると梅酒のクエン酸含量,ソルビトール含量,褐色度が高い傾向であった. 以上のことから,果実の採取時期や大きさは果実および梅酒加工品の品質に大きく影響を及ぼすことが明らかとなり,総合的にみて梅酒づくりには発育ステージが進み,果実肥大が進んだ果実が適すると判断される.

Summary

Effects of the time of the flowering and harvest as well as the size of the fruit on compositions of the fruit and the processed Japanese apricot liqueur (ume liqueur) were determined in the Japanese apricot (*Prunus mume* sieb.et Zucc.) Nanko'. Concentrations of citric acid and sorbitol in the flesh with skin increased until just before the day of full ripening and dropping stage. Growth of fruit that bloomed early was later than that of fruit that bloomed late. The fruit that bloomed early had lower concentrations of citric acid and sorbitol in the flesh with skin than fruit that bloomed late. Concentrations of citric acid and phenolics, antioxidant activity, and browning strength of the ume liqueur increased when the harvest time was delayed to just before full ripening stage. When fruit was harvested on the same day, the larger fruit showed greater concentrations of citric acid, malic acid, sorbitol and β -carotene in the flesh with skin. Concentrations of citric acid and sorbitol and the the browning strength of ume liqueur were higher when fruit above 2L size were processed. These results show that harvest time and fruit size influence the concentrations of components and the quality of both the fruit and the ume liqueur, suggesting that well-grown and enlarged fruit are most suitable for making ume liqueur.

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