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(54) Title: METHODS FOR PRESERVING FRESH PRODUCE

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention pertains to methods of preserving fresh produce with a produce preservative which extends the shelf life of fresh produce, particularly cut fresh produce. The produce preservative preserves the texture, flavor, appearance, crispness, and color of the fresh produce, particularly the exposed surface of the fresh produce. The method comprises the following steps: providing a solution of produce preservative comprising: water, magnesium ions or zinc ions or tin ions; and ascorbate ions, or erythorbate ions; wherein the magnesium ion or zinc ions or tin ions and ascorbate ions are present in a mole ratio of preferably from 0.2:1 to 8:1, more preferably from 0.75:1 to 8:1, more preferably from 1:1 to 4:1, most preferably 1.5:1 to 3:1, applying said produce preservative to the produce; applying said produce preservative to the produce.



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