



**2ND SEM 2005/2006**

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**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

**PROGRAMME : BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AGRICULTURE YEAR V  
[HORT OPTION]**

**COURSE CODE : HORT 506**

**TITLE OF PAPER : POSTHARVEST PHYSIOLOGY OF HORTICULTURAL  
CROPS**

**TIME ALLOWED : TWO [2] HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS**

**DO NOT OPEN UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

**QUESTION 1**

In postharvest physiology of horticultural crops, the role of hormones is of paramount importance in the keeping quality of the produce. Discuss the functional roles of ethylene and abscisic acid in the postharvest physiology of some named horticultural products

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 2**

Discuss the significance of preharvest management on the postharvest status of fruit crops with specific reference to plant nutrition and irrigation.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 3**

Discuss the significance of 'calcium' in the postharvest physiology of some named fruit crops.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 4**

The rose (*Rosa sinensis*) is an important export flower crop. Maintaining the vase life of the cut flower remains a great challenge in the export industry. Discuss.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 5**

One of the most accessible approaches to maintenance of horticultural product quality is in the manipulation of the storage environment. Discuss the significance of 'controlled atmosphere (CA)' in this respect.

[25 marks]