

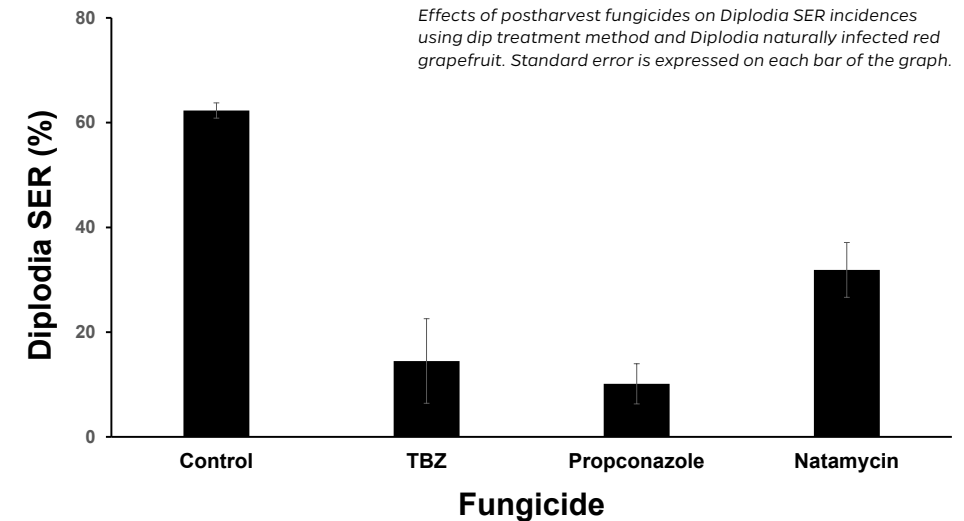
# New Postharvest Fungicides for Florida Citrus

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**Summary:** Besides causing reduced yields in Florida, huanglongbing has also resulted in more postharvest *Diplodia* stem-end rot (SER). Two relatively new postharvest fungicides (propiconazole and natamycin) were evaluated over three separate experiments for their effectiveness against *Diplodia* SER under Florida conditions. Control fruit were dipped in water, and thiabendazole (TBZ) was included as an industry standard for *Diplodia* SER control. Fruit were dipped for one minute in the solutions, and all fungicides were at aqueous



concentrations of 0.1% (1,000 ppm). The fruit were then degreened with 5 ppm ethylene at 85 °F for three days and then incubated at 75 °F for up to three weeks. Both propiconazole and natamycin significantly reduced *Diplodia* SER incidences compared to the water control, but propiconazole was more effective than natamycin and similar to TBZ under the test conditions. Therefore, propiconazole could be a good postharvest fungicide for use in Florida citrus to manage not only sour rot and green mold, but also *Diplodia* SER.

## Take Home Message:

- Fruit dipped for one minute in either propiconazole or natamycin before degreening developed significantly less *Diplodia* SER than fruit dipped in water alone.
- Propiconazole and TBZ both reduced postharvest *Diplodia* SER better than natamycin.
- Propiconazole and TBZ performed about equally in reducing postharvest *Diplodia* SER.

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