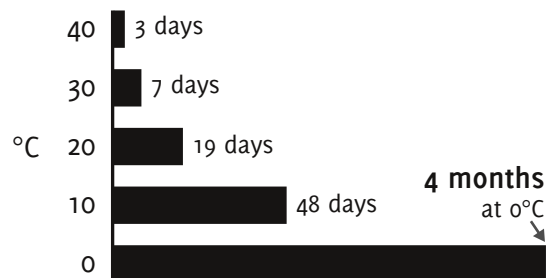


Temperature is the key factor that determines how fast your produce degrades.

Every 10°C decrease in temperature more than doubles the life of your produce.



Shelf life for Carrots and Cabbage

Lowering temperature is easy. Just use shade. Produce can be **10 to 20 degrees cooler in the shade** than in the sun.

Shade is important at every step:

- harvest
- sorting/packaging
- waiting for transport
- transport
- waiting to be sold

Don't have shade? You can make it easily and cheaply. Using shade gives your produce **longer life, better quality, and higher value.**



Millennium Challenge Account
Cape Verde



Ministry of the Environment,
Rural Development and
Marine Resources



Agland Investment Services, Inc.

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Shade



Paúl, Santo Antão

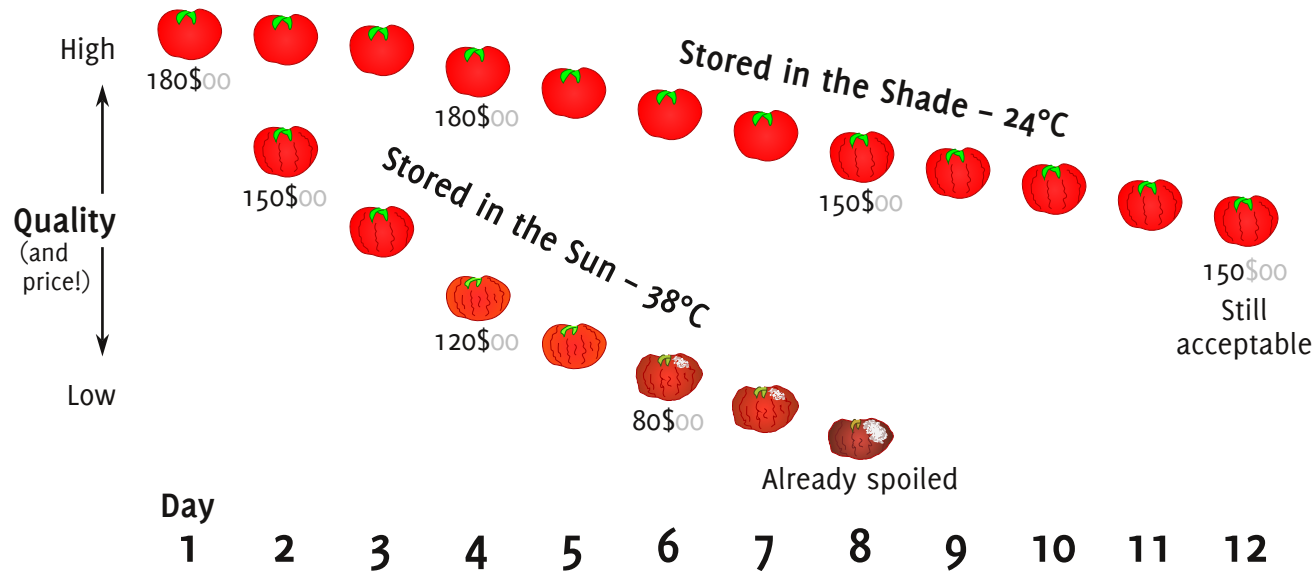
Selection and sorting of tomatoes under a shade structure.

ONE IN A SERIES OF 5

Postharvest

www.mca.cv/pt/formacao/documentos-formacao/

Shelf life of a Tomato



Shade for free

Trees

If you have a tree in your field, put your produce under the tree as you harvest, sort, and package it.

Night

Produce gets hot in the field during the day. Even when you put it in the shade right after harvest, it stays hot (and degrades) for a long time.

Produce cools at night. So **harvest early in the morning**, when the produce is still cool, and keep it cool in the shade.

Make your own shade

If your field lacks natural shade, you can **build a simple shade structure**. One easy way is to tie a tarp (made from plastic, sacks, plant fibers, etc.) to nearby buildings or poles.

The **best shade can be moved easily** to cover any harvest at any time of day.

You can also build a portable working surface at the right height to sort, grade, and package your produce comfortably. Off the ground, your produce is **cleaner, protected from pests**, and less likely to get damaged.



Paúl, Santo Antão

Karapata posts, rice sacks sewn together, bamboo frame. Cost to build: 2.320\$00



Cloth canvas on arched frame.



Ribeira Tor, Santo Antão

Wood posts, wall support, covered with grass.



Fajã, São Nicolau

A portable iron structure covered with sacks sewn together, with a built-in table.