

Levels of Mg and Cd concentration in citrus fruits

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Abstract Fruits contain phytochemicals, or 'plant chemicals'. These biologically active substances can help to protect human beings from some diseases. Fruits are important sources of trace elements in the human diet. Citrus are native to Asia and are attractive, evergreen trees with fragrant blossoms. They are one of the most popular trees in the home garden. Plants require metals in small quantities for certain metabolic processes, but at high levels metals can damage membranes, DNA and other cell components. Most plants try to keep the levels of metals in their cells at a minimum, but plants called metal hyperaccumulators have the unique ability to build up unusually high levels of metals in their tissues without any ill effect. The objective of the current work was to investigate levels of Mg and Cd concentration in citrus fruits (lemon, grapefruit and orange). Analyses were performed using the flame atomic absorption spectrometry (Shimadzu AA 6200). Metals were detected at ppm levels.

Keywords: Mg, Cd, FAAS, lemon, grapefruit, orange
