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Optimizing Dried Cannabis Flower Storage Conditions

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Abstract: The storage conditions of dry cannabis flower are an important factor in maintaining the organoleptic characteristics of the product for the end consumer. In this work we seek to understand the degradation pathways for quantifiable visual and aroma qualities, and thus maximize the shelf life of dried plant material. Dried plant browning is dominated by the loss of chlorophyll, a process known to be controlled by oxygen and light. Volatile aroma compounds (primarily terpenes) can be lost due to vaporization or chemical breakdown. Our work investigates the effect of oxygen, light, temperature and water activity on the chlorophyll content of dried cannabis, as well as the effect of temperature and water activity on terpene content in dried cannabis.