

A CAN DO ATTITUDE: MAKING STABLE CIDER WITHOUT SO₂

Dr. Nichola Hall
January 19th, 2024



2024 - 2025
CIDERMAKING
HANDBOOK
PREMIUM PRODUCTS FOR CIDERMAKING

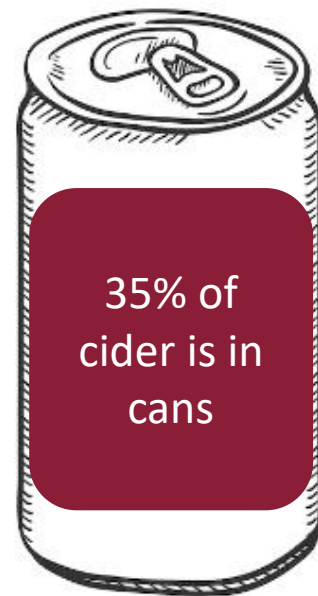
OVERVIEW

a.k.a. What are we going to talk about

- Factors for consideration when using cans
- Benefits and challenges of using SO₂
- Alternatives to SO₂
- Putting it into practice

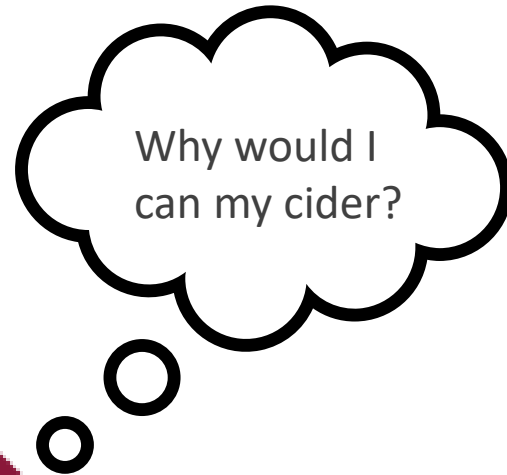
CIDER AND PACKAGING OPTIONS?

Cans are not a new package type but are an area of active growth in the packaging arena!



CIDER AND CANS

A growing segment



Recyclable



Convenient and portable



Chill quickly



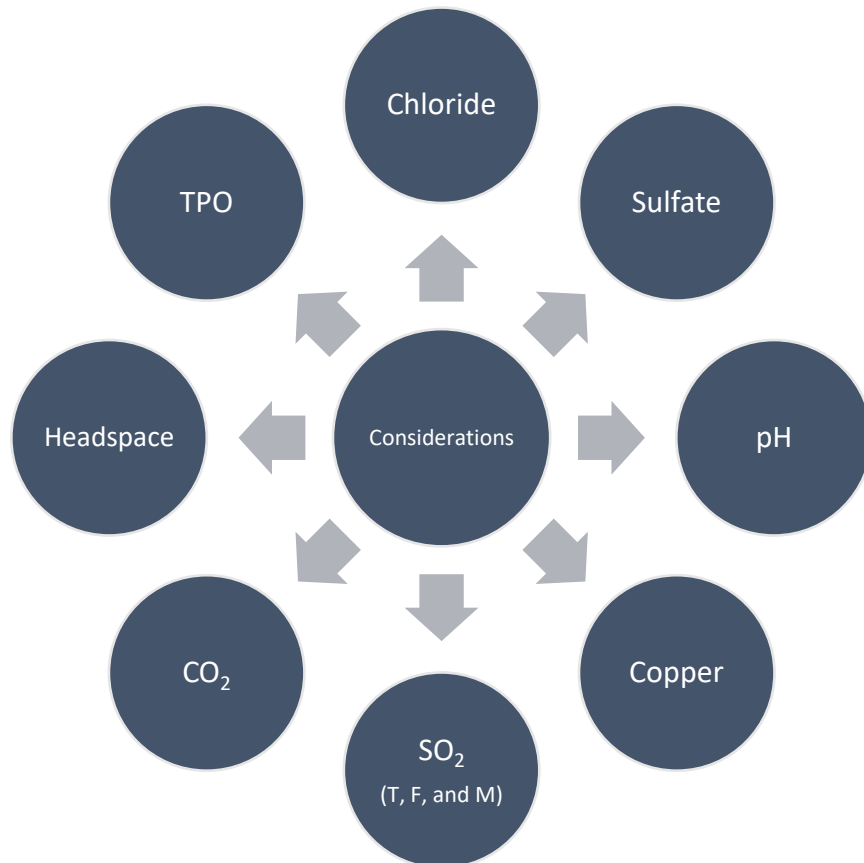
Customizable



Protect product integrity

CIDER AND CANS

Risk factors for consideration when using Aluminum cans

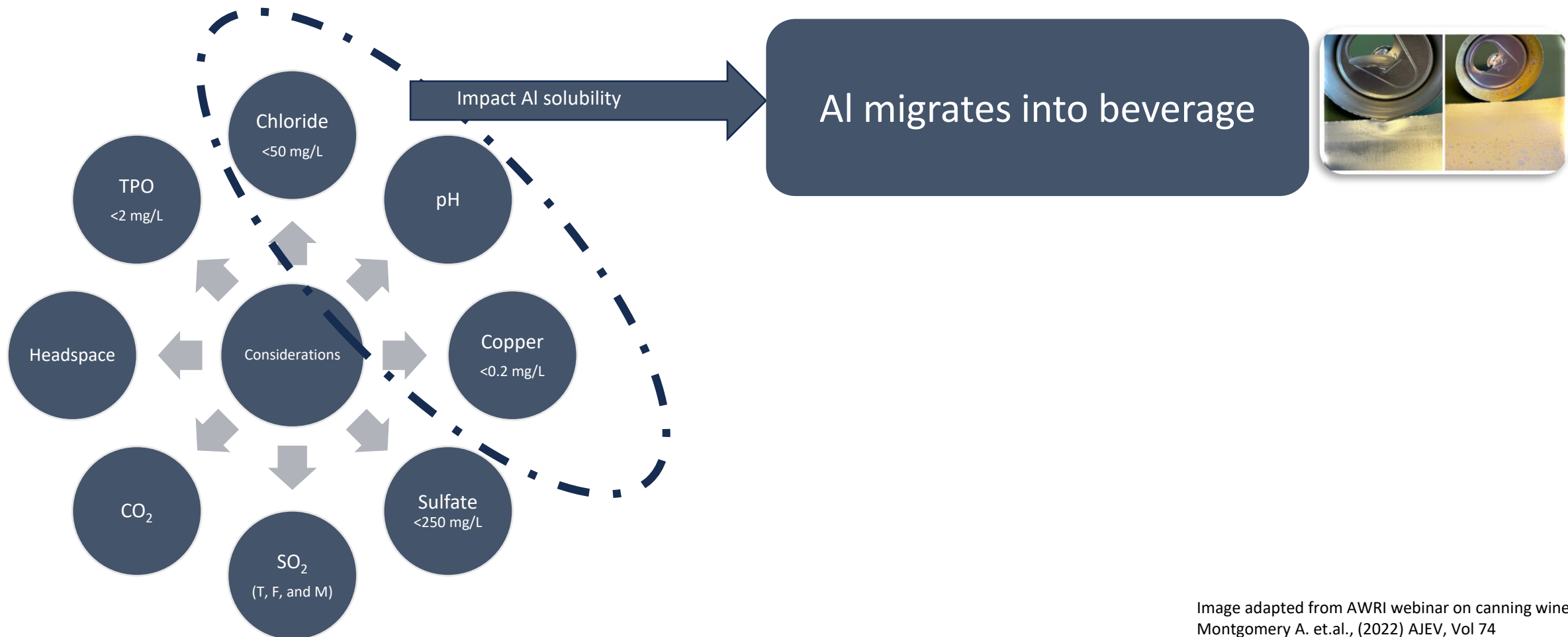


Why are these risk factors?

- Can material is aluminum (Al)
 - Al forms a protective layer with oxygen
 - If this layer is compromised
 - Al is exposed

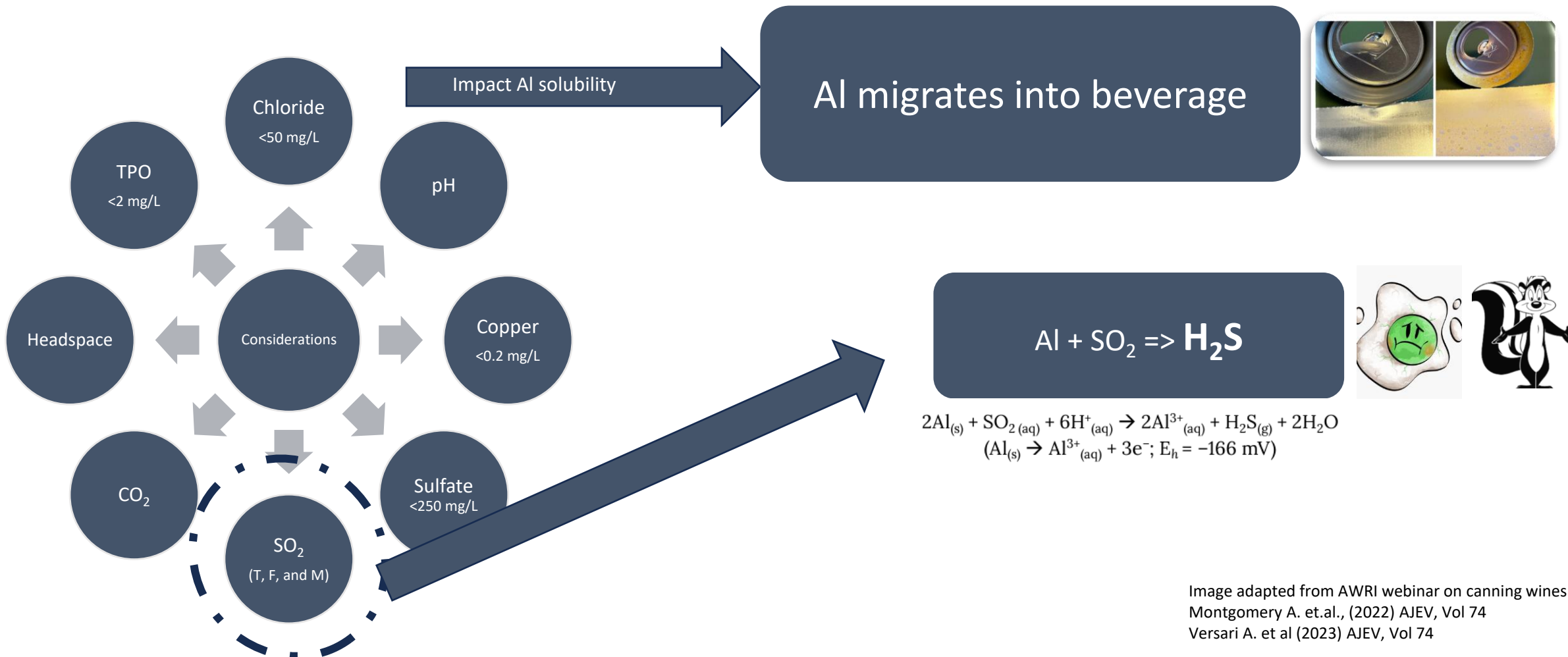
CIDER AND CANS

Risk factors for consideration when using Aluminum cans

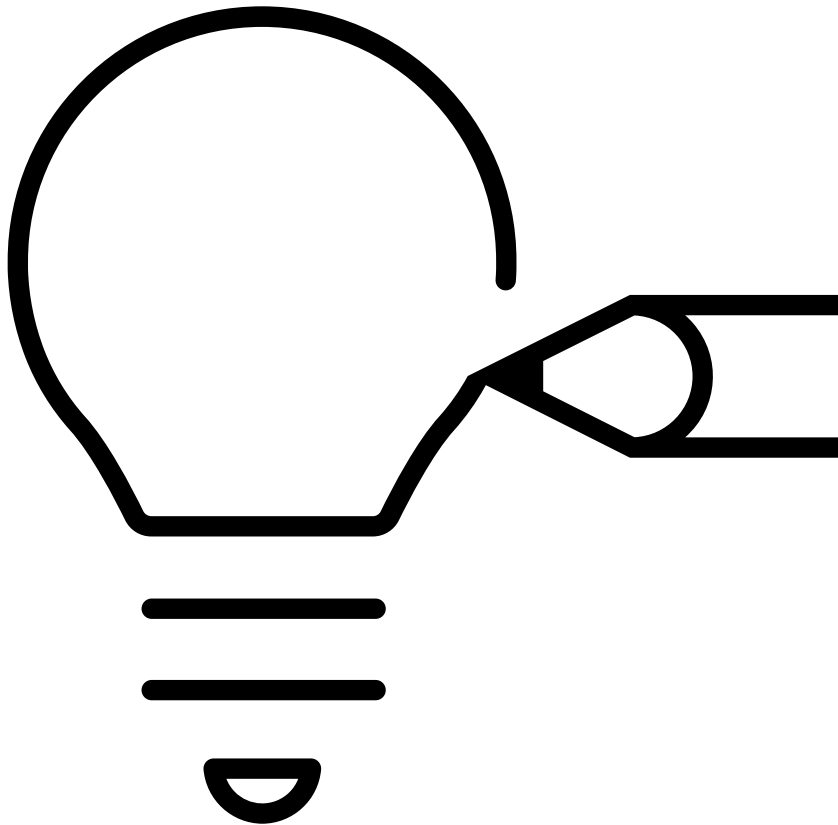


CIDER AND CANS

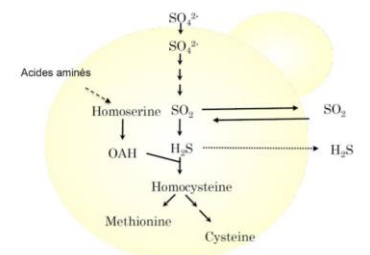
Risk factors for consideration when using Aluminum cans



HOW MUCH SO₂ IS IN YOUR CIDER?



- Deliberate addition
 - Salt form (e.g. potassium metabisulfite)
 - Liquid form
 - Effervescent form (e.g., Inodose tablets)
- Normal constituents of fermented beverages
 - Cider, Beer, Wine...
 - 10-65mg/L can be present as a by product of yeast metabolism

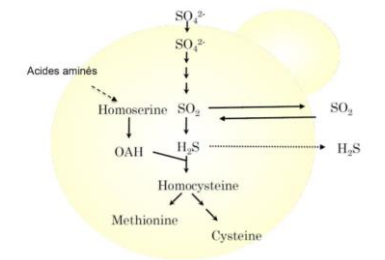


HOW MUCH SO₂ IS IN YOUR CIDER?

Analysis is essential, even if you did not add any!
 Total, Free, and Molecular

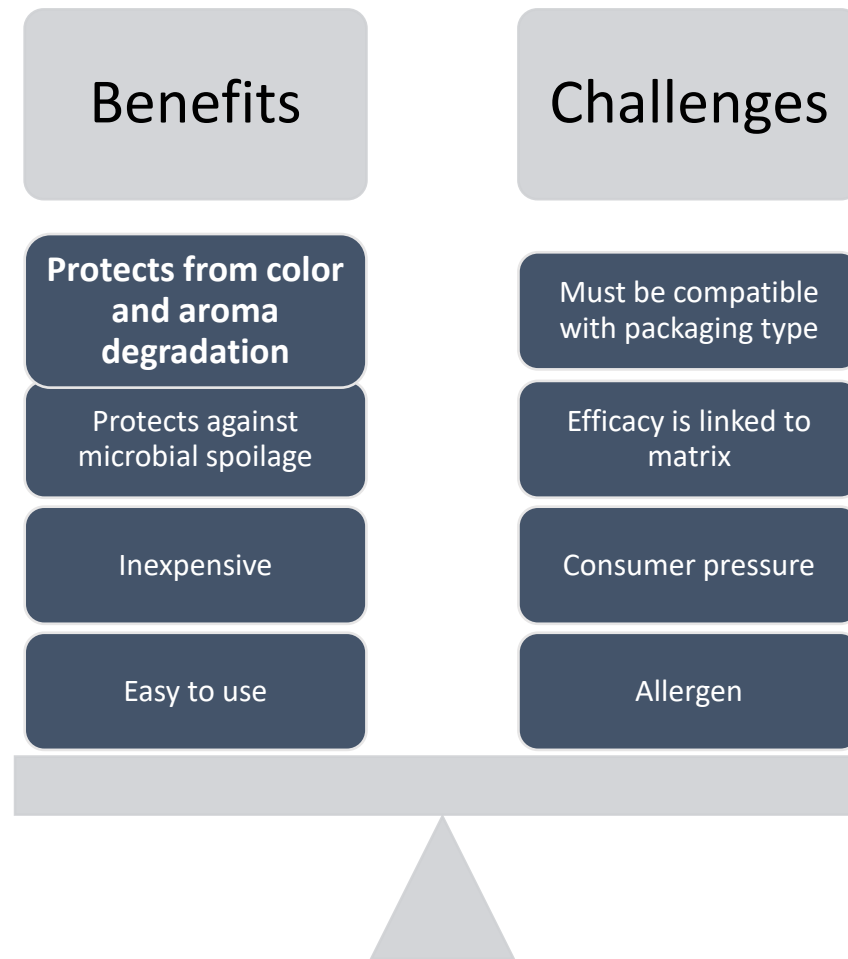
- Deliberate addition (e.g., sulfite)
- Salt (e.g., sulfite)
- (e.g., sulfite)
- (e.g., sulfite)
- (e.g., sulfite)

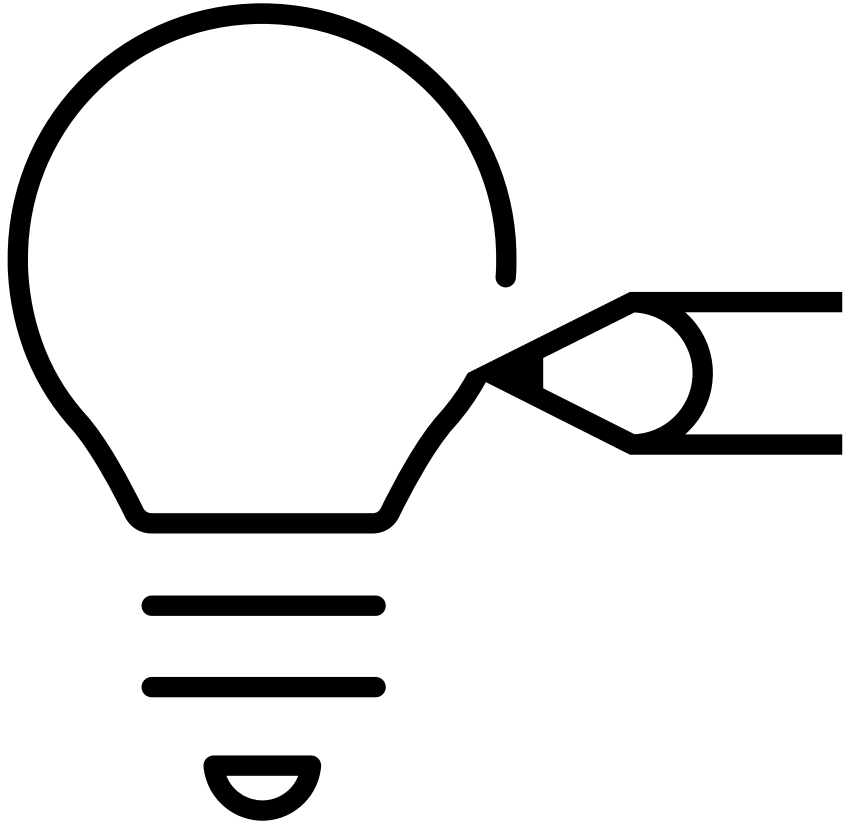
can be present as a by-product of yeast metabolism



SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

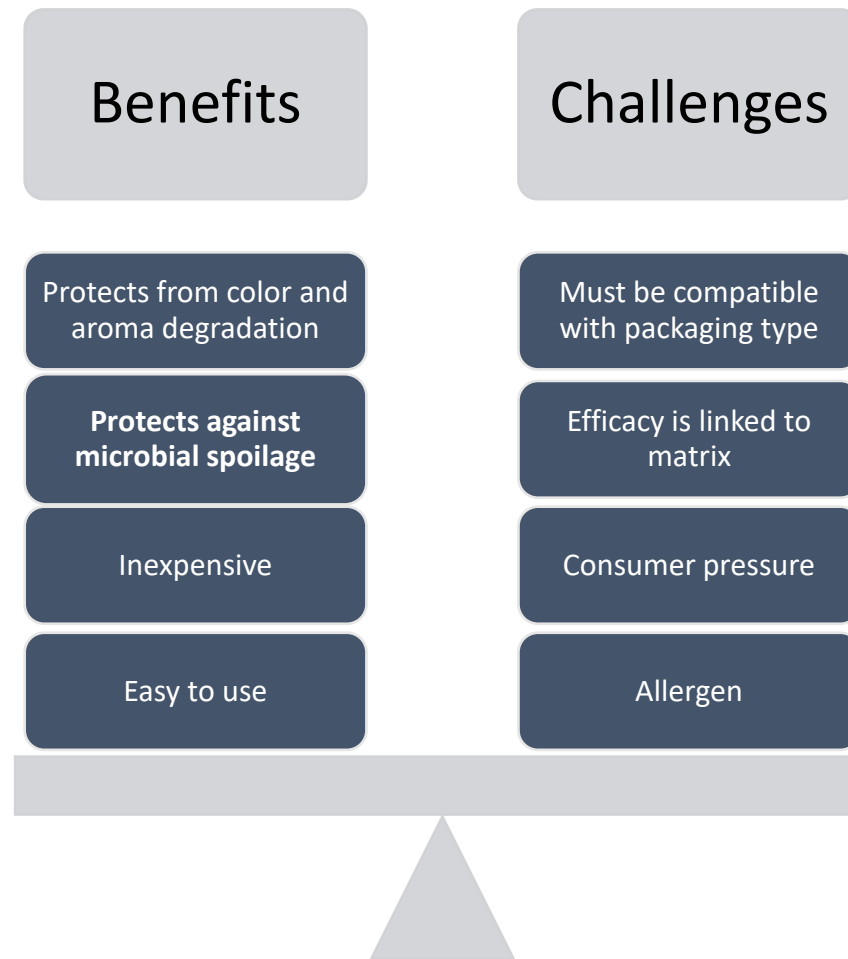
What are the benefits and challenges of SO₂?

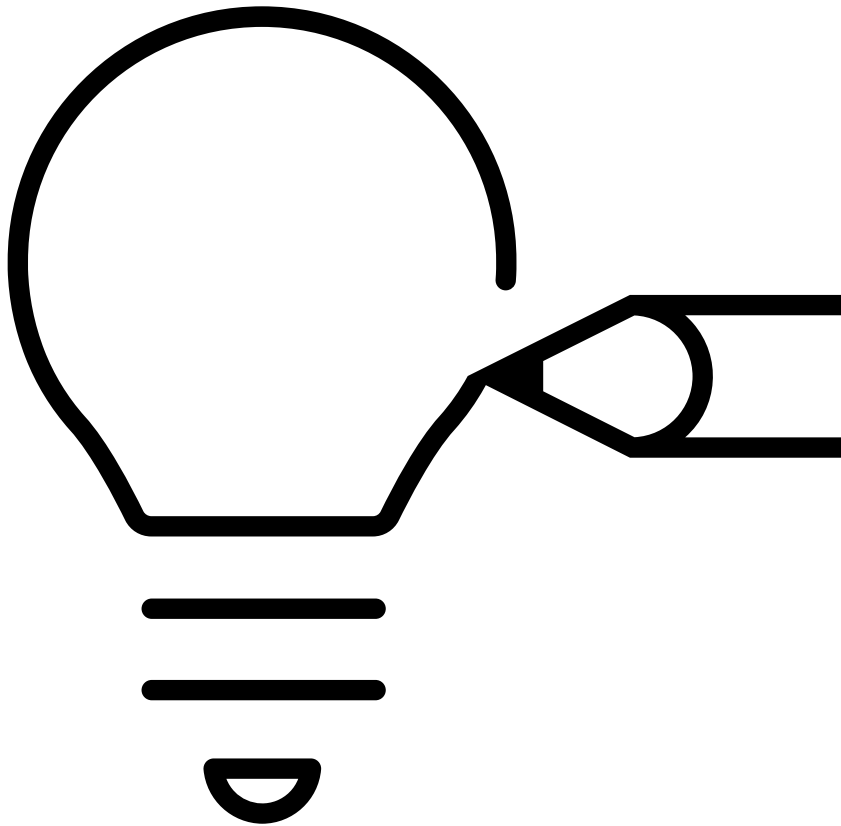




SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

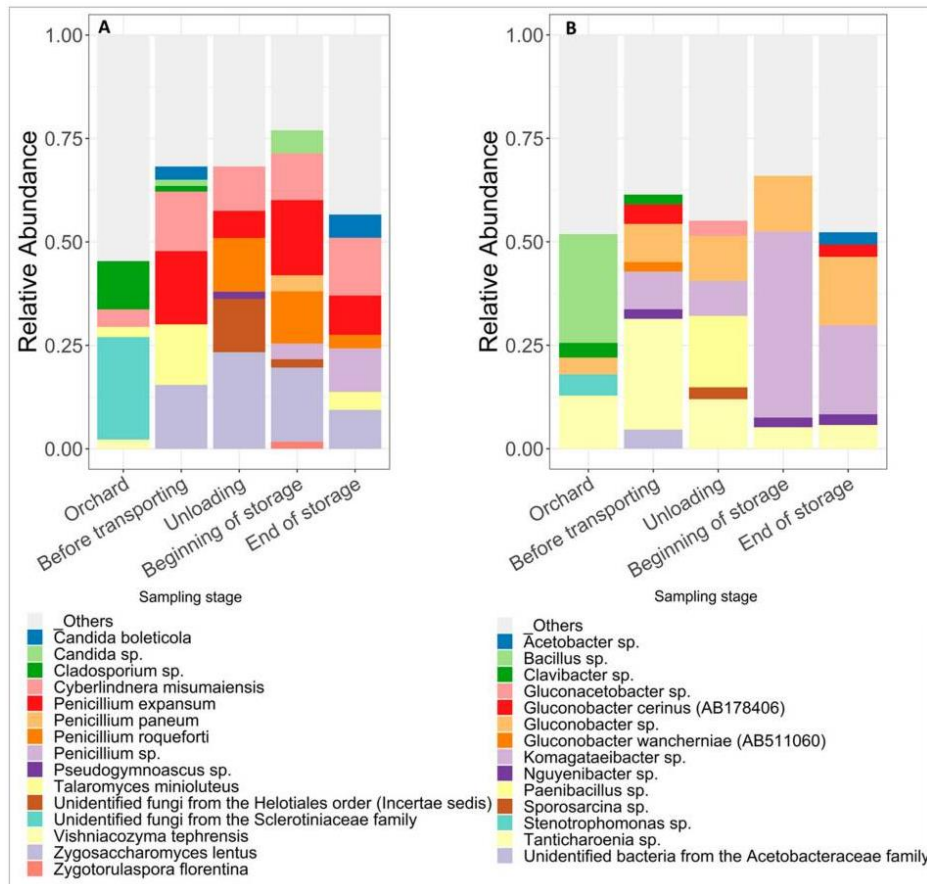
What are the benefits and challenges of SO₂?





WHAT ORGANISMS
DOES CIDER NEED
PROTECTING FROM?

WHAT SPOILAGE ORGANISMS ARE WE TRYING TO MANAGE?



Riachy R A. et. al. (2021) J. Fungi; 7 (4)

Yeast

- *Candida spp.*
- *Hanseniaspora spp./ Kloeckera spp.*
- *Brettanomyces spp.*
- *Saccharomyces spp.*
- *Metschnikowia spp.*

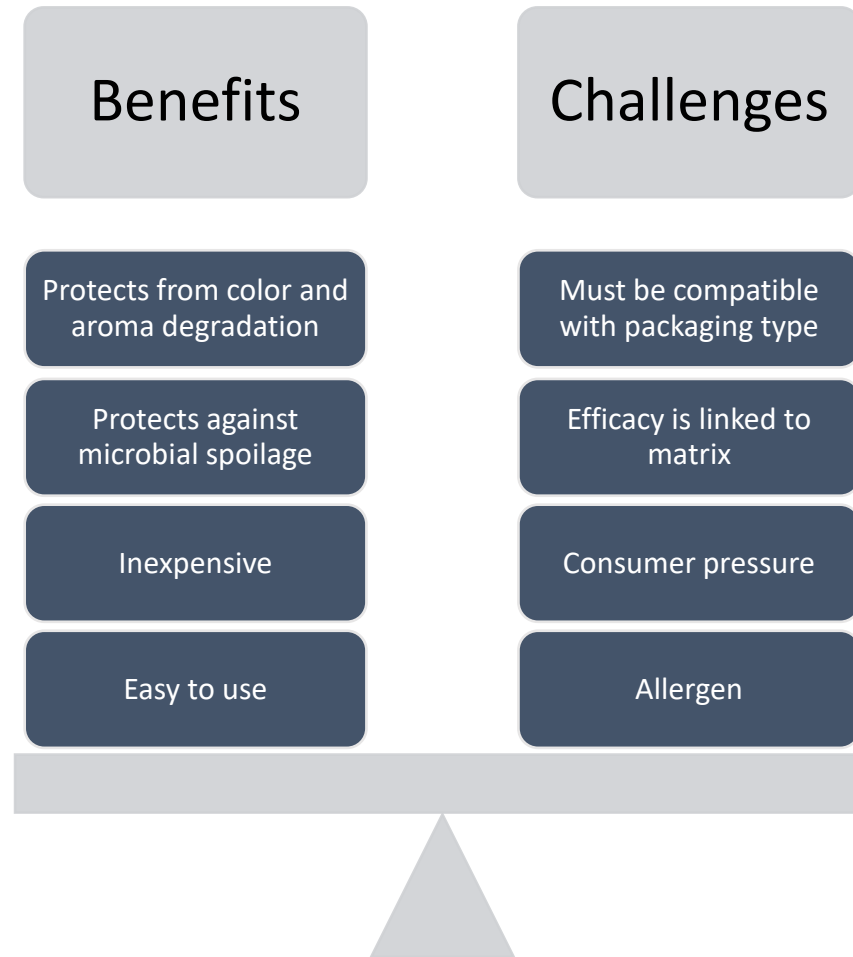
Bacteria

- Lactic acid bacteria
- Acetic acid bacteria

There are organisms associated with all stage the process, however the type and number of microbes differ

SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

What are the benefits and challenges of SO₂?



SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

What are the benefits and challenges of SO₂?

Benefits

Protects from color and aroma degradation

Protects against microbial spoilage

Inexpensive

Easy to use

Challenges

Must be compatible with packaging type

Efficacy is linked to matrix

Consumer pressure

Allergen

Can inhibit or delay the oxidation process: protects from browning and aldehyde (bruised apple/sherry) aroma formation

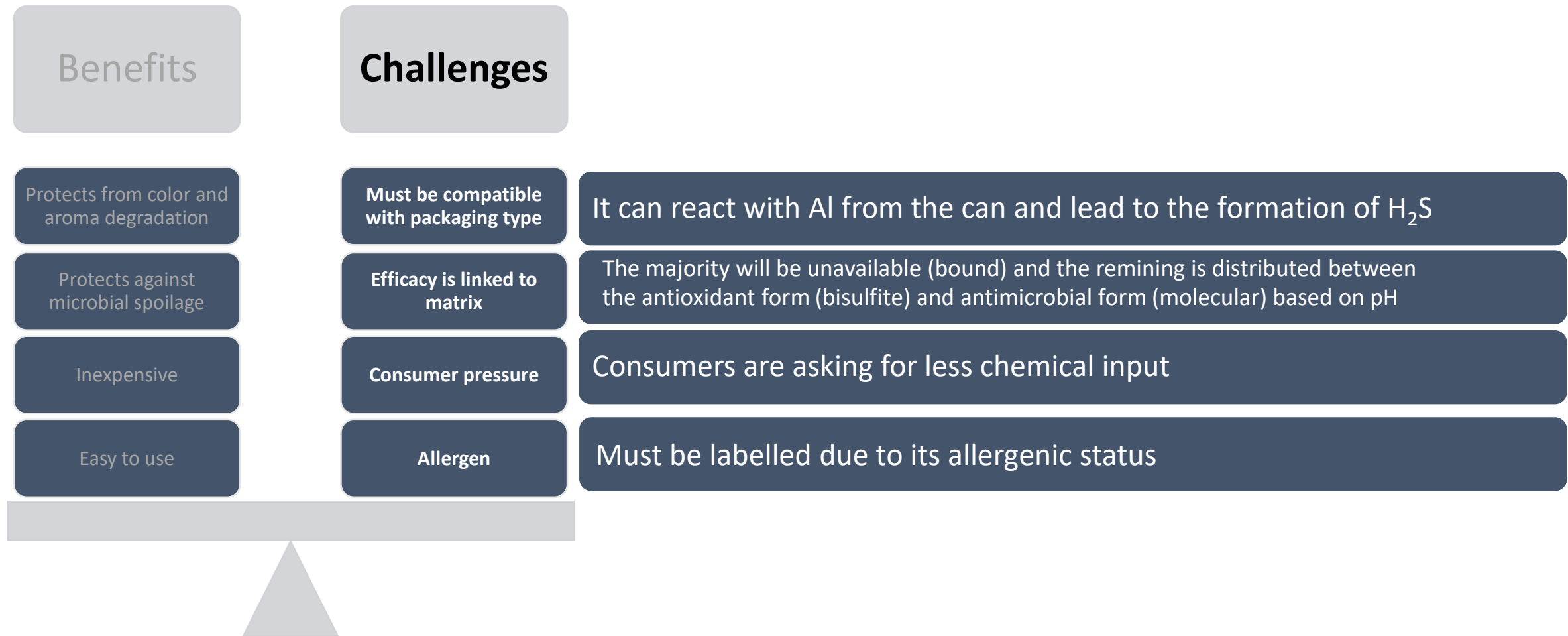
Dissociates (based on the pH) into the active form (MSO₂) which diffuses into yeast and bacteria cell resulting in cell inhibition or cell death

1kg KMBS (576g SO₂) costs <\$8

Comes in standard powder, liquid, effervescent pre-dosed packs of potassium metabisulfite; generally, all are 57% active SO₂

SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

What are the benefits and challenges of SO₂?



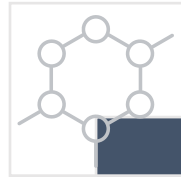
IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



BIOLOGICAL & DERIVATIVES

- Selected cultures
- Non-Sacc.
- *Saccharomyces*
- Malolactic bacteria
- Chitin derivatives



CHEMICAL

- SO₂
- CO₂
- pH mgmt.
- Lysozyme
- Ethanol
- Residual sugar
- Delle Units
- Sorbic Acid
- Velcorin® (DMDC)



PHYSICAL

- Clarification
- Filtration
- Centrifugation
- Thermal
- Hydrostatic pressure
- Electric current
- Ultrasound



ENVIRONMENTAL

- Temperature control
- Humidity
- Headspace
- Facility hygiene

- On the horizon: Natural plant extracts (polyphenolic compounds, almond skins, herb oil, stilbenes, olive)

https://www.jmbfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/jmbfs_1646_Y%C4%B1d%C4%B1r%C4%B1m.pdf

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Biologicals & derivatives

- Microbes
- Microbial metabolites
- Microbial derivatives

- These are general use- check with your regulatory body to determine if permitted

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Biologicals & derivatives

- Microbes
- Microbial metabolites
- Microbial derivatives

Non-Saccharomyces yeast
Saccharomyces yeast

Act as bioprotectants
Take over the juice become dominant organisms and/or remove essential elements from the juice

IF SO_2 IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Biologicals & derivatives

- Microbes
- Microbial metabolites
- Microbial derivatives

Mycotoxins

Production of antimicrobial agents
by living cells
Not commercially available

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Biologicals & derivatives

- Microbes
- Microbial metabolites
- Microbial derivatives



Chitin-glucan
Chitosan

Extraction of antimicrobial agents from previously cultured cells

Impacts cell permeability leading to osmotic and energy imbalance, ending in cell death

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Chemicals

- CO₂
- pH mgmt.

- Ethanol
- Residual sugar

- Lysozyme
- Sorbic Acid
- Tannins
- Velcorin®
(DMDC)

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Chemicals

- CO₂
- pH mgmt.

- Ethanol
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Acidification:
Natural or added

Weak acid theory
The more acidic something is, the more antiseptic

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Chemicals

- CO₂
- pH mgmt.
- Ethanol
- Residual sugar
- Lysozyme
- Sorbic Acid
- Tannins
- Velcorin® (DMDC)

Exploit natural chemistry

In late harvest/ice-ciders
The combination of ethanol and residual sugar in combination can be lethal (Delle Units)

- Assumptions made:
 - A sugar concentration >80% has an equivalent anti-microbial activity of ~18% ethanol
 - Assume that sugar >780g/L is microbiologically stable
 - Assume that ethanol >17.5% is microbiologically stable
- In theory DU ≥ 78 then the cider should be microbiologically stable
- In actuality ≥ 75 should confer stability due to other hurdles

$$Delle\ Units = \frac{Residual\ Sugar(g\ per\ L)}{10} + (4.5 \times ethanol(\%))$$

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)

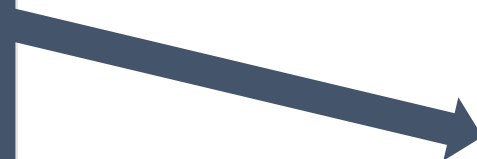


Chemicals

- CO₂
- pH mgmt.

- Ethanol
- Residual sugar

- Lysozyme
- Sorbic Acid
- Tannins
- Velcorin® (DMDC)



Additives/tools

Attack specific regions of cell
leading to cell damage and
ultimately cell death

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Physical

- Clarification
- Filtration
- Centrifugation

- Thermal

- Hydrostatic pressure
- Electric current
- Ultrasound

- These are general use- check with your regulatory body to determine if permitted

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)

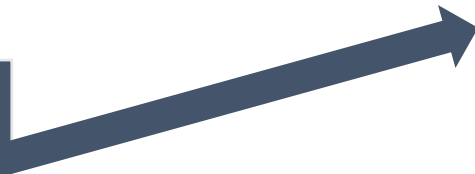


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- Clarification
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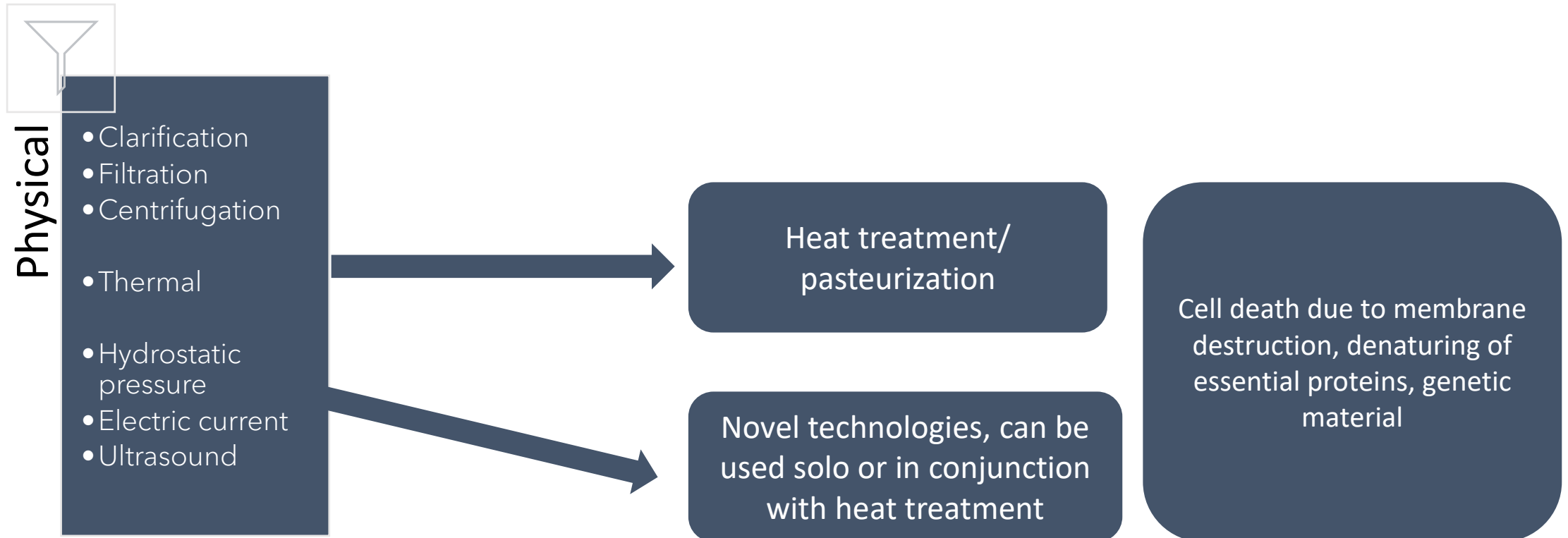


Separation techniques

Physically remove the organisms from the juice/cider

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Environmental

- Temperature control
- Headspace
- Facility hygiene

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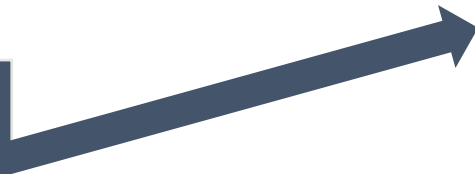
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To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



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Keep juice/cider cool

Cold/cool temperatures
retards microbial growth
Maintain cider <50F/10C

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)



Environmental

- Temperature control
- Headspace
- Facility hygiene

Keep vessels full and use vessels that are oxygen tight

Manage oxygen
Keep vessels topped and displace O₂ with protective gases

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent spoilage (antimicrobial)

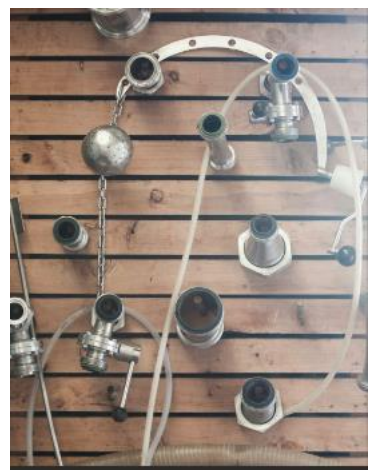


Environmental

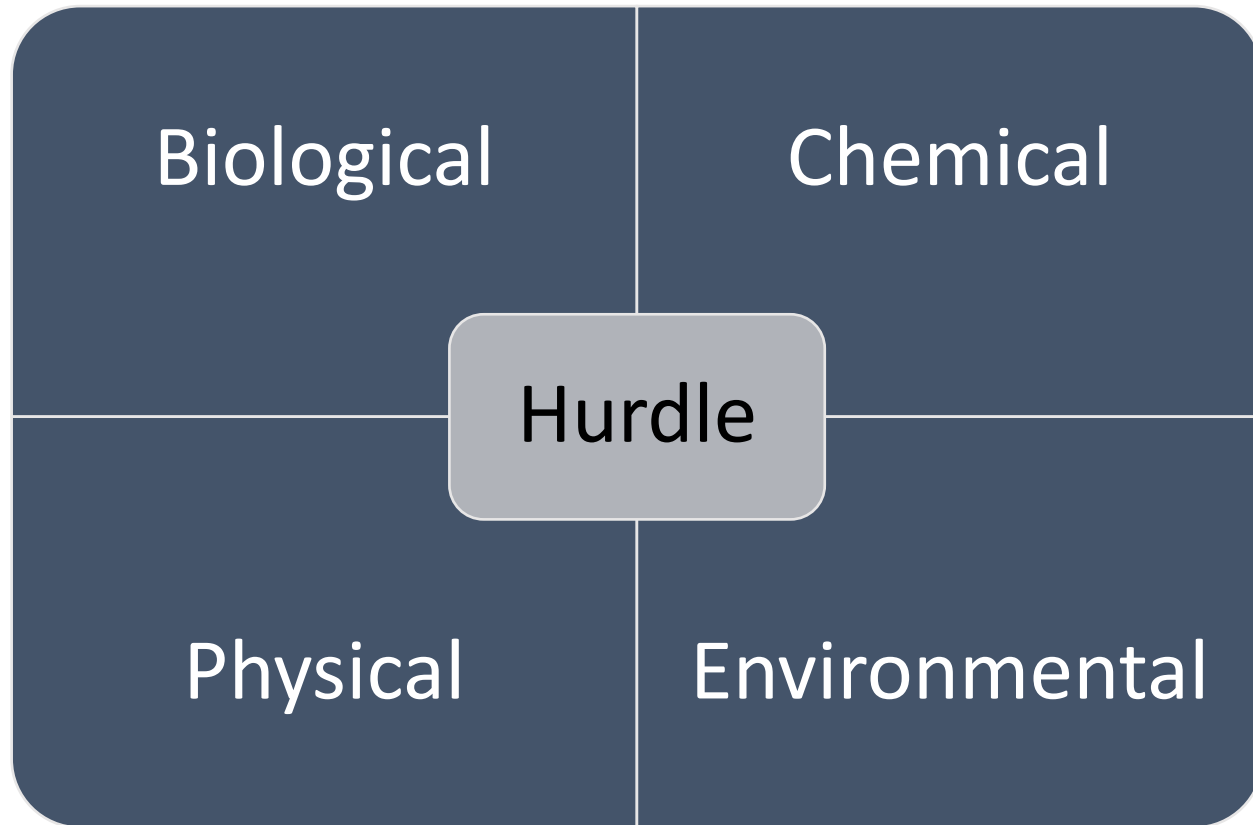
- Temperature control
- Headspace
- Facility hygiene

Clean and sanitize-
EVERYTHING!

Removes cells/kills 99.9% remaining vegetative cells from equipment and prevents biofilm build-up



HURDLE TECHNOLOGY



The more hurdles that are put in front of the microbes, the more difficult it is for them to spoil your cider!

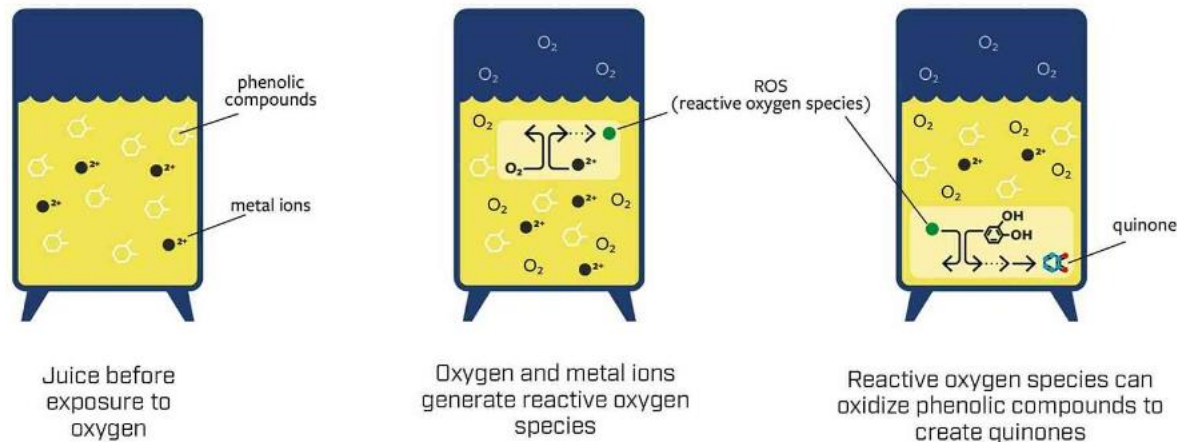
So, we have antimicrobial activity covered...

You need analysis to confirm!



OXIDATION REACTIONS?

A natural, but controllable, multi-stage process



1. Juice is exposed to oxygen
2. Oxygen interacts with metal ions (Fe) generates reactive oxygen species
3. Reactive oxygen species can oxidize phenolic compounds to generate quinones

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent aroma and color degradation (antioxidant)



Antioxidant

- Scavenge O₂
- Scavenge mineral ions
- Scavenge (susceptible) phenolics

• These are general use- check with your regulatory body to determine if permitted

<https://scottlab.com/troubleshooting/preventing-and-treating-oxidative-damage-in-cider>

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent aroma and color degradation (antioxidant)

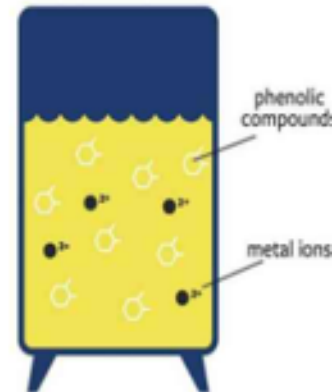


Antioxidant

- Scavenge O₂
- Scavenge mineral ions
- Scavenge (susceptible) phenolics

Oxygen is a participant in the subsequent reaction with iron that generates ROS

Removing O₂ removes one of the precursors to oxidation (Reactive oxygen species)



Juice before exposure to oxygen

Non-Sacc yeast
Inactivated yeast
Oak Tannins

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

To prevent aroma and color degradation (antioxidant)

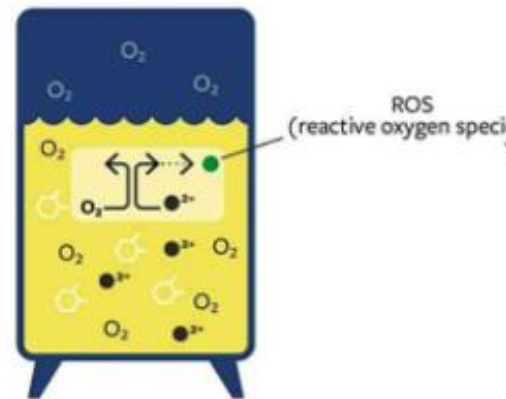


Antioxidant

- Scavenge O₂
- Scavenge mineral ions
- Scavenge (susceptible) phenolics

Metal ions, like iron, are very reactive and easily lose electrons

Removing iron removes one of the intermediates/ catalysts of oxidation



Oxygen and metal ions generate reactive oxygen species

Yeast hulls
Gall nut or condensed tannins

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT IS?

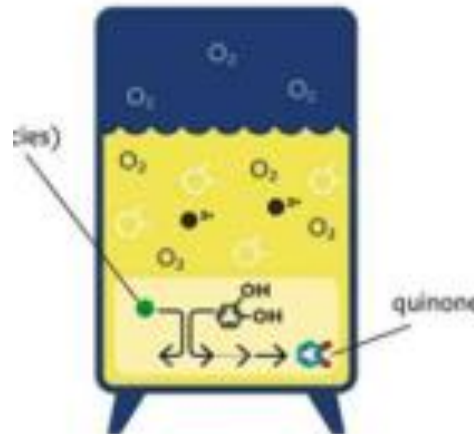
To prevent aroma and color degradation (antioxidant)



Antioxidant

- Scavenge O₂
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Phenolic compounds contain a dihydroxybenzene ring that the ROS can oxidize to quinone



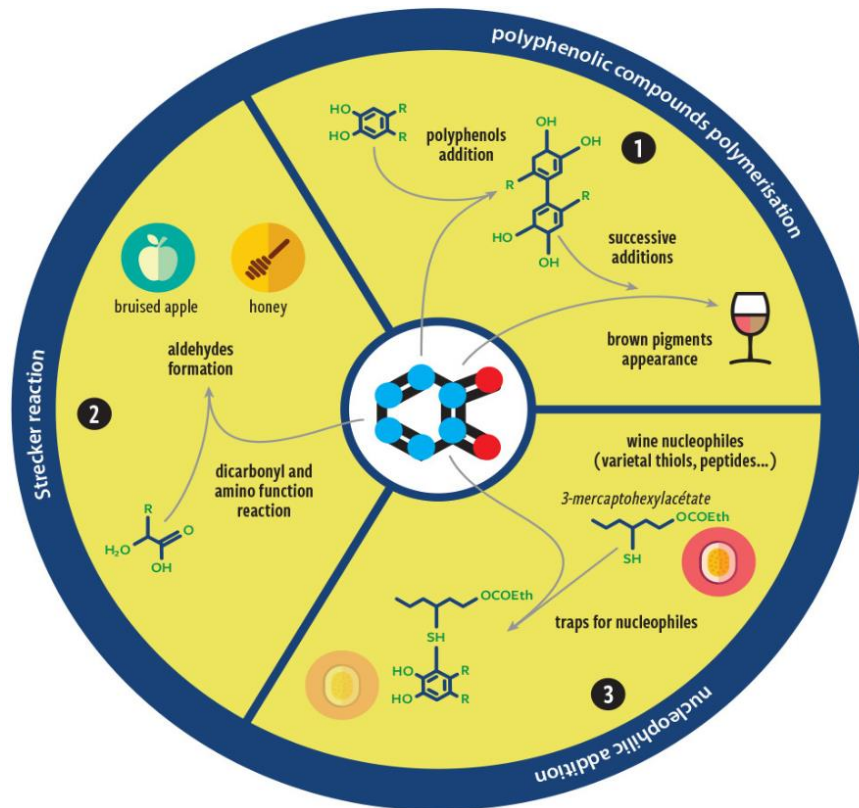
Reactive oxygen species can oxidize phenolic compounds to create quinones

Removing quinones so they are unable to react with nucleophiles ultimately leading to browning

Condensed tannins
Inactivated yeast

OXIDATION REACTIONS?

A natural, but controllable, multi-stage process



If the oxidation cascade is not halted then:

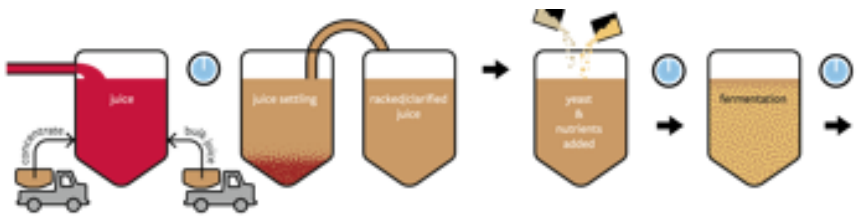
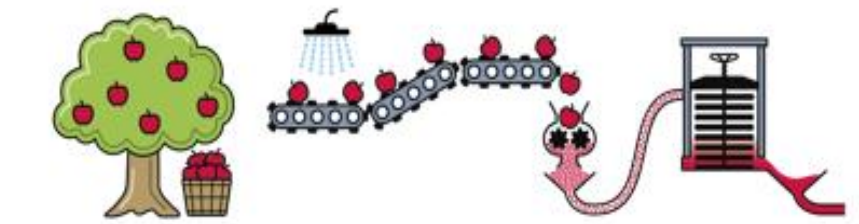
1. When quinones react with polyphenols => Browning occurs
2. Quinones and amino acids interact to form negative sensory compounds (phenylacetaldehydes) => bruised apple/sherry aroma

SO, MAKING CIDER
WITHOUT SO₂ IS
POSSIBLE....

But it takes a lot more
effort and vigilance to
maintain product
quality!

IF SO₂ IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT CAN I USE WHEN?

Putting it all together



Pre-Fermentation
 Non-Saccharomyces yeast: Initia
 Tannins: Essential Antioxidant, etc.
 SIY: Glutastar
 Separation techniques: Clarification, centrifugation
 Environmental control, Temperature and pH management

Fermentation
 Saccharomyces: Strain choice based on style

Post-Fermentation
 SIY: Pure-Lees Longevity
 Additives: Bactiless, No Brett Inside, Lysozyme, Sorbic acid, Velcorin
 Tannins: Essential Antioxidant, etc.
 Separation techniques: Clarification, filtration
 Environmental control, Temperature and pH management

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION...



Nichola Hall

General Manager- Fermentation & Enology

Nicholah@scottlab.com

**FERMENTATION &
ENOLOGY**

**BEVERAGE
INTEGRITY &
FILTRATION**

**EQUIPMENT, PARTS
& SERVICE**

CORK & PACKAGING





Image: Montgomery A. et.al., (2022) AJEV, Vol 74

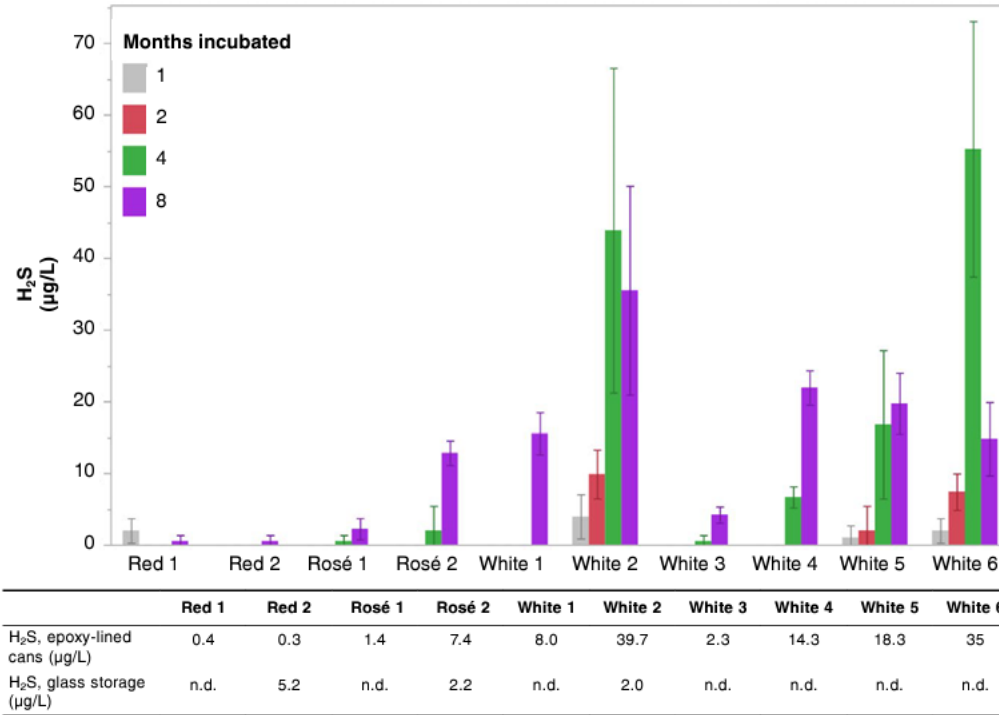


Figure 1 Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) as a function of storage time (one, two, four, or eight months) for 10 commercial wines packaged in replicate BPA-epoxy-lined cans (n = 3 per time point for each wine; error bars represent one standard deviation). Average H₂S levels after four and eight months for each wine stored in BPA-epoxy-lined cans or in glass are reported below the bar chart. n.d., no data.

Vesari et al... <https://www.ajevonline.org/content/ajev/74/2/0740022.full.pdf>
 Montgomery et. Al, <https://www.ajevonline.org/content/ajev/74/1/0740011.full.pdf>
 Microbial data: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8063962/>