**Fruit stages**

- **A**
  - PME activity (nmol MeOH h⁻¹ gFW⁻¹)
  - 'Royal Gala'
  - 'Scifresh'

- **B**
  - Degree of methyl esterification (%)

- **C**
  - Degree of methyl esterification (%)
  - Fruitlet
  - Expanding
  - Mature
  - Ripe

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* indicates a significant difference.