

## **Innovative plastic films**

In Israel, Stepac L.A. Ltd. and the Department of Post-Harvest Storage of Fresh Produce have together developed a range of innovative plastic films. Patented under the trade name 'Xtend,' these films have a higher permeability to water vapour compared with most commercially available modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) products. The storage life of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables can be increased including: avocados, blueberries, broccoli, cantaloupe melons, cauliflower, cherries cherimoya, cucumbers, Galia melon, gassed and green bananas, green beans, green onions, honey dew melon, passion fruit, mangoes, nectarines, radishes, red and green sweet peppers, Romaine lettuce, spinach, sweetcorn and strawberries. Some of the benefits offered by Xtend include:

- More effective Modified Atmosphere Packaging;
- Slowing of ripening and senescence;
- Reduction of decay and physiological disorders; and
- Longer storage life.

Xtend bags and box liners have been designed and field tested by scientists in Israel and the United States. *Contact: Stepac L.A. Ltd., Tefen Industrial Park, Building #12, Tefen, Western Galilee 24959, Israel. Tel: +972 (4) 9872 131; Fax: +972 (4) 9872 946; E-mail: [stepac@stepac.co.il](mailto:stepac@stepac.co.il). (Website: <http://www.xtend-pack.com/about.htm>)*