**S2 Table.** **The statistical results shows significant differences in a\* values’ of ‘Golden delicious’ and ‘Qinguan’**.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a\* values | ‘Golden delicious’ | | | | | | | ‘Qinguan’ | | | | | | |
| DAF(day) | 91 | 107 | 124 | 135 | 142 | 150 | 159 | 126 | 137 | 152 | 168 | 176 | 185 | 196 |
| CK | n | mn | jkl | jkl | hij | fgh | efg | s | rs | q | no | i | fg | c |
| T1 | mn | mn | lm | kl | ijk | gh | fg | rs | o | l | p | k | h | d |
| T2 |  | lm | kl | kl | ij | de | def |  | qrs | j | n | j | h | b |
| T3 |  |  | ijk | fg | efg | efg | cd |  |  | qr | m | e | ef | abc |
| T4 |  |  |  | hi | cde | b | c |  |  |  | qr | e | de | ab |
| T5 |  |  |  |  | gh | b | b |  |  |  |  | q | g | a |
| T6 |  |  |  |  |  | cd | a |  |  |  |  |  | q | ab |
| T7 |  |  |  |  |  |  | b |  |  |  |  |  |  | p |