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PHENOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR OF SIX SEEDLESS GRAPE VARIETIES IN THE TROPICAL CONDITIONS OF VALE DO RIO SÃO FRANCISCO, NORTHEASTERN OF BRAZIL

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This research aimed to characterize the different stages of phenological cycle and thermal demand of six seedless grape varieties at environmental conditions of Vale do Rio São Francisco, Northeastern of Brazil. The experiment was carried out in a vineyard which is part of Embrapa Semi-Árido at Petrolina, State of Pernambuco, during 1997 and 1998, corresponding to four productions cycles, when the pruning dates were, respectively: 06.16.1997, 11.13.1997, 03.25.1998 and 08.10.1998. The varieties tested were Vênus, Arizul, Beauty Seedless, Thompson Seedless, Marroo Seedless and Canner grafted on IAC 572 ('Jales') rootstock. The phenological stages were: beginning of sprouting, flowering, beginning of ripening and harvest time. The thermal characterization was observed through the days-degree necessary to different phenological phases. The results showed that the average time taken from pruning to harvesting varied from 98 days for 'Beauty Seedless' to 120 days for 'Canner'. The four pruning times had great influence on the phenology and thermal demands of the plants, being the pruning of march 1998 that promoted a smaller duration of the phenological cycle for most of the varieties. The thermal sum varied of 1,447 DD in 'Vênus' to 1,966 DD in the variety 'Canner'.