

TABLE GRAPES PRODUCTION IN THE SÃO FRANCISCO RIVER VALLEY, NORTHEAST BRAZIL

26
OK

P. C. de S. Leão*

*Researcher Embrapa Semi-Arid, P.O. Box 23, CEP. 56.300-970, Petrolina, PE, Brazil,
E-mail:patricia@cpatsa.embrapa.br.

Table grapes are cultivated in different Brazilian States. The most important production regions are Southeast, Northeast and South. Northeast region stands out as the main region producing and exporting table grapes in Brazil. The specie grown is *Vitis vinifera* L., and the most important cultivars are 'Italia' and its color mutations 'Benitaka' and 'Brazil', as well as, 'Red Globe', the seedless cultivars are 'Sugraone', 'Thompson Seedless', and 'Crimson Seedless'. The vines are usually spaced 3 to 4 m between rows and 1.5 to 3 between vines, which corresponds a density between 952 up to 3,333 plants/ha. The horizontal overhead-wired trellis is extensively used. Under tropical conditions first pruning is carried out about one year after the planting. The pruning can take place in any time of the year after the period of rest, 30 to 60 days after harvest, when the vines complete their maturation of the branches and accumulate carbohydrates to be mobilized in the next cycle. The reduction of the water amount of irrigation is necessary to stop the vegetative growth during this period. The pruning system used is a head-training with canes (8 to 10 buds). The average yield varies from 30 to 40 tons per hectare. It is possible to obtain two harvests per year, the harvest time is according the demands of domestic and foreign markets. The domestic marketing extends through the whole year, while the most important export marketing period is from September to December and the main destination is European Union.