

**Grapevine Performance and Production Strategies for Tropical Environments****Camargo, U. A.; Mandelli, F.; Conceição, M. A. F.; Tonietto, J.**

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Viticulture, a traditional activity in countries with a temperate climate, has been gaining importance in several hot climate regions in the world. The performance of the grapevine under tropical conditions differs considerably from the one observed in temperate regions. The absence of a dormancy period, associated with the use of adequate cultivation technology, offers the possibility of timing the harvest for any day of the year. This feature brings about the perspective of a great expansion for the tropical viticulture, be it for the continuous market supply with table grapes, be it for the possibility to produce large volumes of wine and juice in small industrial plants. The climatic variability found in intertropical zones, mainly due to the altitude, has allowed for the identification of regions with a great potential for the production of grapes for fine vintage wines. In this study relevant aspects of the grapevine performance in hot climates are presented and the management techniques employed in the tropical viticulture in Brazil are discussed. Furthermore, aspects related to the harvest timing according to the regional and seasonal climatic variations are dealt with, as well as the kind of products (table grapes, wine, juice), the intrinsic characteristics of the cultivars used and the market opportunities. Some Brazilian winegrowing regions are presented as examples.

**Keywords:** tropical viticulture, wine grape, juice grape, table grape, grape cultivar, vineyard management