



## **'D' LEAF AND FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS IN BRS IMPERIAL PINEAPPLE CULTIVAR**

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The Brazilian pineapple industry is based on the cultivar Pérola, very demanded by consumers due to its organoleptic characteristics, but highly susceptible to fusariosis, caused by *Fusarium guttiforme*, the main constraint of that crop in Brazil. Since 1984 Embrapa Cassava and Fruits is conducting a pineapple breeding program aiming at developing fusariosis resistant cultivars. In this regard, BRS Imperial was the first pineapple cultivar released in Brazil in 2003. Aside its excellent physicochemical characteristics, many yield factors must be studied for grower's acceptance. Four 'D' leaf parameters at forcing stage and five fruit characteristics were compared at four distinct sites in the State of Bahia, Brazil, using about 500 plants and fruits. The following variables were evaluated: length, width, fresh and dry weight of 'D' leaf and fruit weight with and without crown, fruit length, total soluble solids and titratable acidity. Highly positive and significant correlations were found between fresh 'D' leaf weight and fruit weight without ( $r = 0,74525$ ) and with ( $r = 0,72277$ ) crown. A moderate and positive correlation was found between 'D' leaf length and fruit weight without ( $r = 0,65486$ ) and with ( $r = 0,64731$ ) crown. Moderate negative correlations were found between 'D' leaf length and fruit titratable acidity ( $r = -0,578090$ ) and between 'D' leaf fresh weight and fruit titratable acidity ( $r = -0,55275$ ).