

002

BUDDING AND FRUITFULNESS OF SEEDLESS GRAPE IN THE SÃO FRANCISCO RIVER VALLEY

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Aiming to evaluate the bud burst percentage and fruitfulness index of five varieties of seedless grape in five different pruning dates, an experiment was carried out in the Experimental Station of Bebedouro, of Semi-arid Embrapa, in Petrolina, PE. The experimental design was a split plot, constituted by five varieties as main treatments, five different pruning times as secondary treatments and ten repetitions (plants). The varieties were Perlette, Thompson Seedless, Marroo Seedless, Catalunha and Superior Seedless, and the pruning times were from: 12/18 to 12/19/2000, 06/18 to 06/21/2001, 10/23 to 10/29/2001, 01/29 to 02/05/2002 and 04/08 to 04/12/2002. The studied variables were budding percentage and fruitfulness index (n° of bunches/n° of buds). The fruitfulness was evaluated from the 1st to 10th buds of the cane. The best results for budding and fruitfulness were obtained in the Marroo Seedless and Perlette varieties, being favored by pruning in June 2001 and April 2002 in most of the varieties.