

FRUIT DEVELOPMENT OF THREE GUAVA CULTIVARS
(*Psidium guajava* L.)

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The knowledge of guava fruiting cycle is of great interest not only due to its biological aspects but also as an important datum for the application of cultural practices. This paper was carried out in the Submédio São Francisco region on four-year old plants, from the germplasm bank of EMBRAPA-CPATSA. The objective was to study the fruit growth pattern of the guava cultivars Patillo, Paluma and Red Selection of Florida. Fruit length and diameter were monitored on twenty-day intervals, resulting on double sigmoidal curves, and characterizing three growth periods, for the cultivars. The results showed that, within the experimental period, the cultivars Red Selection of Florida and Paluma had about the same diameter and length growth rate, with a mean value of 0.036 cm/day and 0.042 cm/day, respectively. However, the biggest fruit size was observed for the cv. Red Selection of Florida. The cv. Patillo had the lowest fruit growth rate, with an increment of 0.027 cm/day in diameter and 0.033 cm/day in length.