

Detection survey for grapevine rust at the irrigated areas of the São Francisco valley, Brazil

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Grape rust, caused by *Phakopsora euvitis* Ono, was introduced in Paraná, south of Brazil, in 2001. It is considered a quarantine pest, being under official regulation. Grape rust can cause early defoliation in susceptible varieties, compromising yield and reducing the vigor of the plant for the following seasons. The irrigated viticulture of the São Francisco Valley produces high quality table grapes and is responsible for 95% of the whole amount of grape exported by Brazil. Therefore, the risks of introduction and establishment of the disease in the region must be minimized. Information on the disease and the risks of its introduction is being disseminated during regional meetings with technicians and growers and in the local media. A detection survey was conducted in the rural area of Petrolina-PE, Juazeiro-BA, according to FAO recommendations (ISPM 6, FAO, 1997). The survey occurred in September and October 2003, and March 2004. In the first period, 34 commercial orchards scattered throughout the main producing areas were visited, representing 2700 ha planted with grapes. In each orchard, a folder with basic information on the disease was handed and 1 ha of an area in production (50 to 120 days after pruning) was sampled in 21 of the 34 orchards. Fifteen plants were selected at random and the underside of mature leaves, three branches per plant, was observed. In March 2004, 20 orchards were visited, following the same procedure. In both periods of survey, grape rust was not observed in the visited areas.