

Influence of pruning intensity and pruning period on growth and wood quality of Castanha do Brasil (*Bertholletia excelsa*) and Virola (*Virola surinamensis*)

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The growth of the wood industry increased the search for high quality woods with a higher value and a good market acceptance. Due to this new demand, it is necessary to study new methods for the production of high quality woods with a lower lead time. The objective of this study is to evaluate the effect of different pruning intensities, during the dry and moist periods, with virola and Castanha do Brasil. To study the effect of pruning intensity and period, some treatments were implemented: Pruning of 30% and 50% of the total height, either during the dry (from July until October) or during the moist season (from January until March). Every six months the total height and crown height and diameter at breast height are measured. Also, anatomical evaluations of the wood in order to detect the influence of the pruning in the growth and formation of the wood are conducted. The pruning procedures of the Castanha do Brasil trees started in July, 1997. The totality of the pruned trees was 40 at 30% of the total height and 40 at 50% of the total height. The other 80 trees were pruned in January, 1998. The virola trees started to be pruned in October, 1997. The total of pruned trees was 64, 32 during the dry period and the rest during the moist period, February, 1998.