

## THE USE OF BRASINOLIDE FOR *IN VITRO* PROPAGATION AND CRYOPRESERVING CREOLE AVOCADO SHOOTS

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Creole avocado shoots (*Persea americana*) var. *Drymifolia*, were cultured *in vitro*, on an MS (Murashige and Skoog) basic medium supplemented with brassinolide hormones at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, and BA (0.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) for 25 days. After this period, the shoots were dehydrated for 60 min. and put in vials containing PVS 4 cryopreserving solution, and stored at -20 °C for 1 hour. After that, the shoots were washed with a mineral solution and sown with the same growth regulators and culturing conditions. The results obtained clearly showed the effect of brassinolide on *in vitro* avocado shoots, which managed to survive two weeks. The best results were obtained with 8 mg L<sup>-1</sup> brassinolide and 0.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup> BA. Electronic microscope test showed a clear effect of brassinolide on preservation, integrity and cellular development of avocado shoots.