

**THERMAL AND HYDRIC BEHAVIOUR IN MEXICAN VARIETY AVOCADO (*Persea spp*)
FLOWERING IN THE COASTAL NORTH-CENTER REGION OF VENEZUELA**

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Thermal and water factors, as well as hours of light were related with the beginning of flowering in a population of 26 Mexican-variety avocado trees (*Persea spp*), cultivars and hybrids, older than 10 years, located in a dry tropical forest. Phenological behaviour was described during three annuals cycles of production between 2002 and 2005. Ecological characteristics of the locality, placed at 450 masl were not the most suitable for this variety. It is estimated that flowering induction occurs three months before the beginning of flowering, this period was characterized for its thermal and water conditions in the four flowering cycles evaluated. Daily maximum temperatures were high (30° a 32°C) and there was few frequency of low-temperature days ($\leq 19^{\circ}\text{C}$); daily thermal amplitude average was 11°C, and accumulated degree-days until the beginning of the flowering were 1475°C. The accumulated precipitation in this period varied between 110.3 and 768.9 mm, and it was partially or totally absent during the flowering. The addition of hours of light in this period varied between 524 and 619 hours of shine, with an average day⁻¹ of 5.8.