

## PHENOLOGICAL BEHAVIOUR OF MEXICAN VARIETY AVOCADO (*Persea spp*) CULTIVARS AND HYBRIDS IN THE NORTHERN CENTRAL COASTAL REGION OF VENEZUELA

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Phenological behaviour was described during three annuals cycles of production between 2002 and 2005 in a population of 26 Mexican variety avocado trees, cultivars and hybrids older than 10 years, located in a dry tropical forest. The beginning, duration and intensity of the events were established by the appearing of the corresponding structures for each phase, covering 5% of the canopy, in 30% of the trees population. Ecological characteristics of the locality, placed at 450 masl were not the most suitable for this variety. Growing flows varied from 3 to 5 and their occurrence was associated with rainy months (April to November) and the first growing flow of the cycle preceded and/or accompanied flowering. The beginning of flowering occurred at the end of the year (September-November) and was characterized by the long duration (20 to 29 weeks), and a low intensity (25 to 50%), probably because of the thermal regime during the floral induction period, which showed temperatures above 30°C and low frequency of low-temperature days ( $\leq 19$  °C). The accumulated rain in floral induction period varied between 375.8 and 567.6 mm and was partially or totally absent during flowering. Fructification period was about 4 months long.