

SOME REPRODUCTIVE ASPECTS OF 'HASS' AVOCADO UNDER SEMIWARM CLIMATE*

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The objective of this study was to obtain information on certain reproductive characteristics (production of flower shoots, flowers and fruits) of the 'Hass avocado cultivated under rainfed conditions (annual rain = 1.300 mm) in the temperate and subhumid climate (avg. annual temp. = 21 °C) of Venustiano Carranza, county of Tepic, Nayarit. In a 17-year-old commercial avocado orchard, a set of 10 trees were randomly selected. Forty floral buds at anthesis were selected in each tree and monitored until fruit harvest. The 'Hass' avocado produced from 3,495 to 6,958 floral shoots per tree, whereas 1,102,689 to 2,280,857 flowers per tree. All floral shoots belonged to the indeterminate type, each one with 228 to 545 flowers, and were composed by 9 to 18 secondary axes. Initial fruit set (fruit/flower) 58 days after anthesis was 0.04%. June fruit drop reached 61.9%. Fruit present at harvest (fruit/flower) was 0.01%. Average fruit yield was 150.4 kg tree⁻¹. Three prediction models for final fruit size, based on initial fruit length, were obtained: small fruit size ($R^2 = 0.972$), medium fruit size ($R^2 = 0.989$), and big fruit size ($R^2 = 0.980$).

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