

**INFLUENCE OF FOUR AVOCADO ROOTSTOCKS ON THE GROWTH AND YIELD OF THE CATALINA VARIETY AT A PLANTING DISTANCE OF 10 X 5 M WITH CULTIVATIONS ASSOCIATED UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF CUBA**

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In this study four avocado rootstocks belonging to ecological groups of West Indian (control), Guatemalan, and Mexican and West Indian-Guatemalan hybrids were evaluated. The experimental units were planted in May 2000 at a planting distance of 10 m x 5 m on a loamy and deep compacted red ferrallitic soil (Instituto de Suelos, 1999), covering an area of 2.5 Ha. All cultural practices were applied, according to Technical Instructions for Cultivation (Cuba, 1984). A randomized block design with two replications and four treatments, using 15 plants per replications, and a statistical analysis of variance of simple classification was applied. When significant differences were detected among means, Tukey test was applied. The analyzed variables were: Perimeter of rootstocks and graft (cm), diameter and height of the canopy (m), production (kg tree<sup>-1</sup>) and yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>).

The perimeter measurements were executed as from the first planting year, while the diameter and height from the canopy in the second year, in November. However, yields were evaluated as from the fourth year, because this fruit plant starts its economic production after the third year. Papaya, maize and beans inserted as associated crops were also planted. In addition, a study on the incidence of ringspot virus affecting the papaya crop was conducted. The best results were obtained on the rootstocks of the West Indian group and their hybrids and on the Mexican group from the general point of view.