

Performance of carrot genotypes at two Jequitinhonha Valley sites

Desempenho de cultivares de cenoura em duas regiões distintas do Alto Vale do Jequitinhonha, MG

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Abstract

The successful commercial use of carrot depends on the choice of cultivars that are well-adapted to soil and climate conditions at the cultivation site and on good consumer acceptance. The objective of this study was to evaluate the performance of carrot cultivars grown in autumn-winter in two towns with different climatic characteristics, in the High Jequitinhonha Valley, MG, Brazil. The experiments were conducted on the Rio Manso farm, in the town of Couto de Magalhães de Minas and on Campus JK at UFVJM, in the town of Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Six carrot cultivars (Brasília, Nantes, Kuronan, Esplanada, Planalto and Tornado) were evaluated using a randomized complete block design with three replicates. The following morpho-agronomic characteristics were evaluated 100 days after sowing: shoot height, root length, root dry matter, total dry matter, harvest index, commercial yield and total yield root. The most suitable cultivars in Diamantina were Planalto, Tornado and Kuronan, and the cultivar Planalto was the best suited to Couto de Magalhães de Minas. The agronomic performance of the cultivars was higher in Couto de Magalhães de Minas for the majority of the study variables, resulting in a higher total yield and commercial root yield. The climatic and soil conditions of Diamantina induced flowering in most cultivars, causing a loss to the commercial yield in autumn-winter cultivation.

Key words: Environment, *Daucus carota* L., flowering, root yield

Resumo

O sucesso na exploração comercial da cenoura depende da escolha de cultivares com boa adaptação às condições de solo e de clima no local onde será cultivada e da boa aceitação pelo mercado consumidor. O objetivo do presente trabalho foi avaliar o desempenho de cultivares de cenoura no cultivo de outono-inverno em dois municípios com características edafoclimáticas distintas do Alto Vale do Jequitinhonha, MG. Os experimentos foram conduzidos na Fazenda Rio Manso, município de Couto de Magalhães de Minas, MG e no Campus JK da UFVJM, município de Diamantina, MG. Foram avaliadas seis cultivares de cenoura (Brasília, Nantes, Kuronan, Esplanada, Planalto e Tornado) utilizando-se o delineamento experimental em blocos ao acaso com três repetições. As características

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morfoagronômicas altura da parte aérea, comprimento de raiz, matéria seca de raiz, matéria seca total, índice de colheita, produtividade comercial e produtividade total de raízes foram avaliadas 100 dias após a semeadura. As cultivares que se destacaram em Diamantina foram Planalto, Tornado e Kuronan e em Couto de Magalhães de Minas a cultivar Planalto. O desempenho agrônômico das cultivares foi superior em Couto de Magalhães de Minas para a maioria das variáveis avaliadas, resultando em uma maior produtividade total e comercial de raízes. As condições edafoclimáticas de Diamantina induzem florescimento na maioria das cultivares, causando perdas de produtividade comercial no cultivo de outono-inverno.

Palavras-chave: Ambiente, *Daucus carota* L., florescimento, produtividade de raiz

Introduction

In terms of consumption, extension of planting area and socioeconomic value, carrots (*Daucus carota* L.) are among the most important herbaceous crops in the world (FREITAS et al., 2009). They are currently the fourth most widely cultivated vegetable in Brazil, with an estimated production of 756,000 tones and mean yield of 28 t.ha⁻¹ (EMBRAPA, 2013). This yield can be considered low when compared to Brazilian regions such as Gotardo, MG and Brasília, DF, where the yield can exceed 80 t.ha⁻¹ of roots (EMBRAPA, 2012). This occurs because these regions apply appropriate management practices for carrot crops; in addition, yellow-reddish Latosol soil predominates in both towns, which is conducive to the development of tuberous roots (OLIVEIRA et al., 2005).

The carrot is a species that grows in a mild climate; after Brazilian cultivars (considered as summer cultivars) were launched on the market, carrots began to be cultivated in Brazil virtually all year round (SILVA et al., 2012). The main summer cultivars available on the market are Brasília, Kuronan, Prima, Nova Carandaí, and the main winter cultivar is Nantes (EMBRAPA, 2015). However, factors such as temperature, relative humidity, photoperiod, harvesting season, preference of the consumer market and time of sowing, must be observed in the choice of a cultivar that is suitable for each region, in order to obtain success in the commercial use of their roots (DUDA; REGHIN, 2000).

Typically, the cultivars imported from Nantes are usually grown in the autumn and winter, whereas

in the spring and summer, the Brazilian cultivars Kuronan, Brasília, Kuroda and more recently, the cultivars Prima, Esplanada and Planalto are cultivated (REGHIN; DUDA, 2000; VIEIRA et al., 2005, 2012). This division is due to high bolting rates of Brazilian cultivars when they are planted in cold seasons, and also due to the high incidence of diseases in the leaves and the low resistance to heat of imported cultivars when sowing occurs in warm seasons.

The choice of genotypes for extensive ranges of environments on the basis of their mean yield, i.e., without considering the specific adaptation of each genotype in each environment, is a decision that facilitates the work of plant breeders. However, for productive characteristics where the effects of the genotype-environment interaction are important, this practice can cause large losses, because these interactions are not defined for each specific environment. This is one reason why it can be difficult to select genotypes for regions that have different soil and climatic features (CRUZ; CASTOLDI, 1991).

Within the same agricultural area, climatic differences can exist at different locations, whose ecological conditions are apparently similar. The effects of these differences on the performance of a particular crop can be evaluated by genotype-environment interactions. Therefore, before making final recommendations for genotypes on different sites, tests should be conducted at different times and at different locations, in order to verify the respective crop agronomic performance (LARIOS et al., 1992).

The objective of this study was to evaluate the performance of carrot cultivars grown in autumn-winter in two towns of the High Jequitinhonha Valley, MG, with different climatic characteristics.

Material and Methods

The study was carried out in the field in two locations: (a) The Rio Manso Experimental Farm, Universidade Federal dos Vales do Jequitinhonha e Mucuri - UFVJM, located in the town of Couto de Magalhães, Minas Gerais, (18°07'S and 43°47'W; 726 m altitude), with a mean annual rainfall of 1,269 mm (CPRM, 2013) and a mean annual temperature of 19.4°C, with a climate classified as Aw, according

to the Köppen classification, i.e., tropical climate with dry winter season, and a clayey and generally poorly drained soil classified as Dystrophic Typic Hapludox; b) The Department of Olericulture, UFVJM Campus JK, located in the town of Diamantina, Minas Gerais, (18°12'S and 43°34'W; 1,387 m altitude) with a mean annual temperature of 18°C, a mean annual rainfall of 1,404.7 mm, with a Cwb climate, according to the Köppen classification, i.e., humid temperate, with a dry winter and rains in the summer, located on a sandy and moderately drained Typic Orthic Quartzarenic Neosol. Table 1 shows the minimum, maximum, and median temperatures and the rainfall, evaluated during the given period for the two towns.

Table 1. Maximum, minimum and mean temperatures (°C) and rainfall (mm), during the period of the experiments for the cities of Diamantina, MG and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, Minas Gerais, for May to November 2011. Data are from INMET. UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

Variable	City	Year 2011						
		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Maximum temperature	Diamantina	21.5	22.2	22.3	25.4	25.2	23.1	22.8
	Couto de M.	25.2	26.4	26.6	29.5	29.1	27.1	26.2
Minimum temperature	Diamantina	11.4	12.1	11.4	13.0	12.5	14.5	14.3
	Couto de M.	12.0	12.1	10.9	11.3	11.5	16.9	17.2
Mean temperature	Diamantina	16.5	17.1	16.9	19.2	18.8	18.8	18.6
	Couto de M.	18.6	19.2	18.7	20.4	20.3	22.0	21.7
Rainfall	Diamantina	0.4	0.3	0.01	0.5	0.1	178.8	342.5
	Couto de M.	0.3	0.01	5.7	0.01	0.01	82.6	269.4

Source: INMET, 2012.

The experimental design consisted of a randomized block design, with three replicates. The treatments included six carrot cultivars (Brasília, Nantes, Kuronan, Esplanada, Planalto and Tornado). The experimental areas were plowed and harrowed, and seedbeds were then created. The

plots consisted of an area of 2 m², with four rows spaced 0.24 m apart. The correction of acidity and soil fertilization were performed according to the results of soil analysis in the experimental areas (Table 2), following the criteria of the Commission for Soil Fertility of the State of Minas Gerais (CFSEMG, 1999).

Table 2. Chemical composition and physical soil samples from the 0-20 cm soil depth layer in the cities of Diamantina, MG and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, MG. UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

City	pH	P	K	Ca	Mg	Al	H + Al	SB	T	t
		mg.dm ⁻³			cmolc.dm ⁻³					
Diamantina	5.6	2.49	12.6	0.7	0.45	0.12	1.9	1.18	3.08	1.3
Couto de M.	5	6.1	111	2.4	1.2	0.02	2.4	3.89	6.29	3.91
City	V	Fe	Cu	Zn	Mn	B	Granulometry			
	%	mg.dm ⁻¹					Sand	Silt	Clay	
							%			
Diamantina	38	202	0.59	4.41	1.89	2.09	86	3	11	
Couto de M.	62	43.3	1.28	1.2	233	0.14	60	13	27	

Seeding was performed in the two locations on 26 August, 2011, and the experiments were irrigated twice daily during the entire crop cycle. Thinning was performed at 35 days after sowing, maintaining a 5-cm distance between plants within each row.

For the analysis of final yield, 10 plants per plot were harvested at 100 days after sowing (mean date of harvest of cultivars), and were evaluated for the following characteristics: shoot height (H); root length (LEN); root diameter (RD); root dry matter (RDM), total dry matter (TDM); harvest index (HI) = (economic yield/biological yield) × 100; and total yield (TY). The harvest index (HI) was calculated using the following formulae (FLOSS, 2006):

Biological yield (BY) = total dry matter (kg) × number of plants per ha; and

Economic yield (EY) = root dry matter (kg) × number of plants per ha.

Shoot height and root length were measured using a graduated ruler. Subsequently, the collected plant material was washed in distilled water, weighed and dried in an air-forced circulation oven at 70°C to constant weight. Root dry matter and total dry matter were determined using 0.0001 g precision electronic scales. Total dry matter was calculated by summing the shoot and the root dry matter.

Total yield was calculated as the mean root production, measured on the evaluated plants, multiplied by the number of plants in one hectare.

The results were expressed in t.ha⁻¹. For this characteristic, the roots that had flourished were also taken into account.

The data were submitted to an analysis of covariance, and the means, when significant, underwent the *F*-test, and were subsequently compared by Tukey's test at 5% probability.

The flowering percentage (% FLO) was also evaluated at 100 days after sowing; this is the ratio between the total number of plants whose seed stalk has appeared and the total number of plants in the plot. For the calculation of commercial yield (CY), the roots of plants that were flowering were excluded from the total root yield, and the flowering percentage and commercial yield variables were also submitted to analysis of covariance and Tukey's test at 5% probability, when a significant difference was observed using the *F*-test in Microsoft Excel 2003® Software.

The analysis of variance for each site was performed considering the model: $Y_{ij} = m + t_i + b_j + e_{ij}$, where y_{ij} refers to the value observed in treatment i in repetition j ; m is the overall mean; t_i is the effect of treatment i ; b_j is the effect of block j ; and e_{ij} is the effect of the plot (error) associated with treatment i in repetition j . The analysis of covariance was performed considering the model: $y_{ijk} = m + t_i + a_j + ta_{ij} + b_{k(j)} + e_{ik(j)}$, where y_{ijk} refers to observation k of treatment i in environment j ; t_i is the effect of treatment i ; a_j is the effect of environment j ; ta_{ij} is

the effect of the interaction between treatment i and environment j ; $b_{k(j)}$ is the effect of block k within environment j ; and $e_{ik(j)}$ is the mean error.

For the study variables, with the exception of flowering, the ratio between the largest and the smallest mean-squared residue was lower than seven for the two environments, which meets the requirement for the implementation and interpretation of the analysis of covariance (PIMENTEL-GOMES, 1990).

Results and Discussion

The analysis of covariance showed significant effects between the environments for the variables

shoot height, root length, root diameter, total yield, commercial yield and harvest index (Table 3). The effects between cultivars were significant for shoot height, root dry matter, total dry matter, root diameter, and total yield. For the effect of the environment \times cultivar interaction, differences were only observed for shoot height; therefore, for this variable, the behavior of the cultivars is not consistent with the assessed environments. These results are similar to those of Silva et al. (2012) and Carvalho et al. (2014). This interaction occurs due to different sensitivities of genotypes to environmental changes, and it is an aggravating factor in plant breeding programs (RAMALHO et al., 1993).

Table 3. Sources of variation and their degrees of freedom and mean squares for a joint analysis of variance with eight variables and an individual analysis of variance with carrot cultivars as a variable in the cities of Diamantina, MG and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, MG. UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

Mean squares for the assessed variables					
Source of variation	Degree of freedom	ALT	COMP	MSR	MST
Block/city	4	8.97 ^{ns}	2.04 ^{ns}	139.75 ^{ns}	166.41 ^{ns}
City	1	3926.17 ^{**}	86.86 ^{**}	28.36 ^{ns}	567.51 ^{ns}
Cultivars	5	51.19 ^{**}	9.60 ^{ns}	788.01 [*]	1373.84 [*]
Interaction	5	47.52 ^{**}	2.47 ^{ns}	247.65 ^{ns}	458.15 ^{ns}
Residue	20	7.91	3.57	251.23	342.45
Source of variation	Degrees of freedom	DIAM	PRODT	PRODC	IC
Block/city	4	0.26 ^{ns}	21.26 ^{ns}	17.02 ^{ns}	18.45 ^{ns}
City	1	2.29 ^{**}	900.14 ^{**}	2805.40 ^{**}	672.68 ^{**}
Cultivars	5	0.52 ^{**}	288.14 [*]	123.90 ^{ns}	18.98 ^{ns}
Interaction	5	0.11 ^{ns}	33.79 ^{ns}	111.90 ^{ns}	40.88 ^{ns}
Residue	20	0.06	72.17	65.12	18.79
% FLOR*					
Source of variation	Degree of freedom	Couto de Magalhães de Minas		Diamantina	
Block	2	4.29 ^{ns}		14.71 ^{ns}	
Cultivars	4	1.54 ^{ns}		285.80 ^{**}	
Residue	8	1.80		32.77	

ns, * ** = Not significant, significant at 5 and 1%, respectively.

The premise for making the joint analysis was not observed for the character %FLOR.

The individual analysis of environments for the variable flowering percentage showed a significant effect between the cultivars only in Diamantina

(Table 3), but for shoot height among cultivars in the environments, the means of all genotypes were higher in Couto de Magalhães de Minas (Table 4).

For the comparison between cultivars in Couto de Magalhães de Minas, the tallest shoots were found for the cultivar Brasília, which were taller than those of the cultivars Nantes, Esplanada and Tornado. For the same comparison in Diamantina, the shortest shoots were shown by the cultivar Nantes, which differed from those of the other cultivars except for Brasília. Lopes et al. (2008) also reported that the cultivar Brasília was taller than the other cultivars in an experiment in Mossoró, RN, and concluded that this difference is probably due to an inherent property of the cultivars.

The evaluation of root length between environments showed that roots in Diamantina

had a higher mean length (24.95 cm) than those in Couto de Magalhães de Minas (21.84 cm), as shown in Table 5. Lima and Athanázio (2008) in Londrina, PR, Resende et al. (2005), in Marília, SP and Reghin and Duda (2000) in Ponta Grossa, PR, observed mean root lengths of 18.55; 17.46; and 13.2 cm, respectively when examining carrot yield in a single environment. These values are lower than those observed in the present study, which is expected, since the environments and the cultivars were different to those used in this study. The mean values found in the study locations here belong to “class 22” - the class that classifies the longest roots for marketing purposes (CEAGESP, 2013).

Table 4. Mean shoot height (cm) from the pooled analysis of carrot cultivars from Diamantina, MG and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, MG. UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

Cultivars	Couto de Magalhães	Diamantina
Brasília	61.77 aA	32.55 bAB
Nantes	50.85 aB	26.79 bB
Kuronan	54.65 aAB	34.99 bA
Esplanada	51.74 aB	37.64 bA
Planalto	57.49 aAB	34.79 bA
Tornado	51.21 aB	35.63 bA
CV (%)	6.33	6.33

Means not followed by the same uppercase and lowercase letters in columns or rows differ according to the Tukey test at 5% probability. The coefficient of variation was estimated from the mean residual joint analysis.

Table 5. Total yield (TY); root length (LEN); harvest index (HI); root diameter (RD); and commercial yield (CY) from the joint analysis of carrot cultivars for the cities of Diamantina, MG and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, MG. UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

City	TY (t.ha ⁻¹)	LEN (cm)	HI	RD (cm)	CY (t.ha ⁻¹)
Couto de Magalhães	47.64 A	21.84 B	72.91 B	32.61 A	49.06 A
Diamantina	38.23 B	24.95 A	81.55 A	27.57 B	31.40 B
CV (%)	26.20	8.52	6.07	8.54	20.10

Means not followed by the same letters in columns differ according to the Tukey test at 5% probability. The coefficient of variation for each variable was estimated from the mean residual joint analysis.

The genotype Planalto showed the highest mean root dry matter, (62.72), which was much greater than that for Tornado and Nantes (30.68 and 33.14, respectively) (Table 6). A similar finding was also

observed by Teófilo et al. (2009), in Mossoró, RN, where cultivars that had a more pronounced shoot growth also had higher values of root dry matter.

Table 6. Mean root dry matter (RDM); total dry matter (TDM); root diameter (RD); and total yield (TY) from the joint analysis of carrot cultivars in the cities of Diamantina, MG and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, MG. UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

Cultivars	RDM (g.pl ⁻¹)	TDM (g.pl ⁻¹)	RD (cm)	TY (t.ha ⁻¹)
Brasília	41.77 AB	53.09 B	3.32 A	39.27 AB
Nantes	33.14 B	42.31 C	2.88 AB	35.43 B
Kuronan	39.34 AB	51.18 B	3.21 A	47.06 AB
Esplanada	45.77 AB	61.94 A	2.65 B	42.34 AB
Planalto	62.72 A	80.90 A	3.25 A	54.04 A
Tornado	30.68 B	39.30 C	2.72 B	49.83 AB
CV (%)	38.13	34.41	8.12	19.24

Means not followed by the same letters in columns differ according to the Tukey test at 5% probability. The coefficient of variation for each variable was estimated from the mean residual joint analysis.

The highest mean harvest index (81.55) was observed at Diamantina (Table 5); a longer cultivation time was required at this location for the roots to reach the point of harvest, compared with at Couto de Magalhães de Minas, which had a mean harvest index of 72.91.

For root diameter, the cultivars Brasília, Planalto and Kuronan could be distinguished from Esplanada and Tornado (Table 6), and the plants at Couto de Magalhães de Minas had a higher mean root diameter than those at Diamantina (Table 5). Bernardi et al. (2004) and Reghin and Duda (2000) also found variations in this variable between genotypes in Braganca Paulista, SP and Reghin and in Ponta Grossa, PR, respectively. The lowest values found for the cultivar Esplanada can be explained by the fact that the breeding of this cultivar was geared towards the production of baby carrots, which resulted in the formation of thinner roots (diameter < 3 cm), to ensure a greater yield in industrial production (VIEIRA et al., 2005). By contrast, the low values shown by the Tornado cultivar can be attributed to the longer life-cycle of this genotype (130 days). Furthermore, all material was harvested at 100 days after sowing, before this cultivar reached its harvest cycle (TECNOSEED, 2010).

For the total root yield, Couto de Magalhães de Minas showed a higher mean (49.06) than that of Diamantina (31.40) (Table 5). The greatest value among cultivars was shown by Planalto, but this was only significantly different from the Nantes cultivar (Table 6). Vieira et al. (2012), working with different cultivars in different regions, found a mean total root yield of 63.43, which was higher than the value for the Planato cultivar, thus confirming the great productive potential of this new material. The cultivar Nantes showed similar results to those found in tests carried out by Luz et al. (2009) in Uberlândia, MG, and Reghin and Duda (2000) in Ponta Grossa, PR, where Nantes also showed a higher total root yield.

Nantes was the only cultivar that did not flower in the environments studied and was therefore removed from the analysis of variance for this character (Table 3). This genotype originates from France, is sensitive to mild temperatures, and is recommended for planting in cold seasons of the year. It is also highly resistant to bolting, which is the main problem in autumn-winter carrot cultivation in Brazil (EMBRAPA, 2013).

A similar result for the cultivar Nantes was found by Cardoso and Della Vecchia (1995), in Braganca Paulista, SP, who observed no bolting in different

months of sowing for three consecutive years. Therefore, when cultivated at different sowing dates in Brazil, the cultivar Nantes showed no yield loss due to bolting, even in environments with lower temperatures, such as Diamantina (Table 1).

The incidence of flowering observed in Couto de Magalhaes de Minas was similar to that observed by Pessoa and Cordeiro (1997), who evaluated carrot cultivars sown in autumn-winter cultivation in Brasília, DF, a region with higher temperatures than those in Diamantina. The genotype Tornado in Diamantina showed a higher flowering percentage than cultivars Brasília and Esplanada, with a flowering percentage close to 40%. This result is similar to that found by Reghin and Duda (2000) for the genotype Kuronan in Ponta Grossa, PR, a location that similar to Diamantina, also has a mild climate.

According to information supplied by the manufacturer, the hybrid Tornado is not subject to restrictions on sowing dates (TECNOSEED, 2013); it is the only cultivar used in this study without restrictions on the growing season. However, this genotype showed the highest bolting percentage (38.60%) of all genotypes in Diamantina and might therefore be unsuitable for seeding in colder seasons because it suffers major production losses caused by bolting in regions with a milder climate.

Among the cultivars evaluated in Diamantina, Brasília showed the lowest flowering percentage (11.68%) (Table 7); however, for the same month of sowing, Cardoso and Della Vecchia (1995), in Brasília, DF, and Reghin and Duda (2000), in Ponta Grossa, PR, found values of 32.7 and 27.3%, respectively. This demonstrates that this genotype shows variability in the flowering percentage in autumn-winter cultivation, as also demonstrated by Galvani (2008) in Botucatu, SP, Brazil. This is probably because most of the material selected from the cultivar Brasília that is available on the market, is genetically weakened, with a different varietal standard from the one originally described.

This genetic degeneration is probably due to the lack of a basic inventory of seeds purchased at Embrapa Hortaliças by some companies in the seed-producing industry (ANDRADE et al., 2003).

Table 7. Flowering percentage carrot cultivars to 100 days after sowing for the city of Diamantina, UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

Cultivars	Diamantina
Brasília	11.68 B
Kuronan	24.03 AB
Esplanada	20.01 B
Planalto	22.60 AB
Tornado	38.60 A
Mean	23.38
CV (%)	24.12

Means not followed by the same letters differ according to the Tukey test at 5% probability.

Although flowering is of paramount importance for the production of commercial seeds by natural induction, this phenomenon causes large yield losses of commercial roots. Carrot roots quickly become very lignified after natural vernalization, even before the lengthening of the flower peduncle; thus, the onset of flowering results in the complete loss of commercial value (ALESSANDRO; GALMARINI, 2007). Thus, the cultivars that showed a high flowering percentage at this time of planting are subject to yield loss of tuberous roots. On the other hand, the flowering percentage results in Diamantina showed that this environment has a great potential to induce natural flowering in carrot plants and might thus represent an environment to produce seeds by natural vernalization using the seed-to-seed method.

In terms of variable commercial yield, although there was no difference between the means of the cultivars according to Tukey's test (Table 5), the difference between some cultivars was more than 10 t.ha⁻¹; these values directly affect farmers' profits from a commercial point of view. In Couto de

Magalhães de Minas, for example, the commercial yield of the cultivars Planalto, Tornado and Kuronan was above 50 t.ha⁻¹, and in Diamantina, that of the cultivar Planalto was close to 38 t.ha⁻¹ (Table 8).

For the variable commercial yield, Couto de Magalhães de Minas showed the highest mean, of 49.06 t.ha⁻¹ (Table 5). Lopes et al. (2008), in Mossoró, RN, and Carvalho et al. (2005) in Brasília, DF, also carried out studies in the autumn-winter

period, whereas Luz et al. (2009), in Uberlândia, MG, conducted experiments in the spring-summer period and the following mean values for commercial yield were found, respectively: 35.16; 24.93, and 25.59 kg.ha⁻¹. These values are lower than those found in Couto de Magalhães de Minas (49.06) and are similar to that found in Diamantina (31.40), which shows that the values obtained in Couto de Magalhães de Minas can be considered high in comparison with those of other regions.

Table 8. Commercial yield (t ha⁻¹) for the joint analysis of carrot cultivars from Diamantina, MG and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, Minas Gerais. UFVJM, Diamantina, 2013.

Cultivars	Couto de Magalhães de Minas	Diamantina
Brasília	40.15	33.91
Nantes	40.32	30.54
Kuronan	54.59	28.97
Esplanada	46.02	30.29
Planalto	58.47	37.77
Tornado	54.79	26.93
CV (%)	8.31	8.31

The coefficient of variation for each variable was estimated from the mean residual joint analysis.

Despite the difference between environments for the variable commercial yield, the values obtained for the crops in Diamantina are relevant because they were measured in an unfavorable period for the majority of cultivars and because they exceeded the mean Brazilian yield, which is 28.0 t.ha⁻¹ (EMBRAPA, 2013). A further comment concerning the results from these environments is that in contrast to expectations, the imported cultivar Nantes did not show major differences out in autumn-winter cultivation, even in Diamantina, where the majority of cultivars showed high bolting values. Thus, in these locations, it is not recommended to use seeds of imported cultivars such as Nantes for autumn-winter cultivation, but rather Brazilian cultivars (usually recommended only for the summer), because these are less expensive and offer no differences in commercial yield compared with imported cultivars. This would considerably reduce

production costs in this period.

Conclusions

The cultivars Planalto, Tornado and Kuronan are the most suitable for cultivation in Couto de Magalhães de Minas, whereas in Diamantina, only the cultivar Planalto is suitable.

Couto de Magalhães de Minas is the more suitable location for the cultivation of carrots.

The climate and soil conditions in Diamantina induce flowering in most cultivars, causing a loss of commercial yield in autumn-winter cultivation.

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