

## MARKET QUALITY EVALUATION FOR EXPORT-ORIENTED MANGO<sup>1</sup>

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The San Francisco River Valley is the principal mango production region for Brazilian exports. The growers of this region ship their exports mainly to North America, Europe, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. The market quality is one of the limiting factors for expanding exportation. The objective of this study was to analyse the minimum shipping quality requirements of samples taken from 128 randomly selected mango lots (cv. Tommy Atkins) that were exported in August, September and October of 2001. The results showed that most of the selected lots did not present ideal maturity indices, although had good marketable color of the peel (>50%). The values of total soluble solids varied from 3.8 to 13.1°B, but most of the samples had 5 to 6°B. The fruit size was dominated by two size reference numbers, 8 and 9, for both North American and European markets. Major problems highlighted in the survey included skin damage during transport, mite injury, tripe injury, mechanical injury during production, sapburn, physiological disorders, fruit rots and maturity. The principal export market was the North American. The percentage of rejected fruits reached 65.2, with an average value of 18.8.