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Impact of climate change on thermal conditions for growing vineyards in Struma valley

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Thermal conditions are a major factor in classifying agro-climatic conditions and choosing to cultivate varieties of crops on a given territory. In this research are used the average temperature for the warm half-year (April-October), duration of a period with an air temperature above 10 °C and sums raised for the same period. The chronological changes of this indicator for the last 67 years, as well as the possibilities for cultivation of different wine varieties characteristic of well-known wine-growing regions. Research from these areas on the thermal requirements of known varieties of vines was used to characterize the conditions of the Struma valley. The results show that with temperature rises, the conditions for growing warmer varieties also appear in more northern areas with a colder climate for which the vineyard is not a typical crop.

Key words: climate, thermal conditions, growing period, vineyards, Struma valley,