Seasonal and Cutting Interval Effects on Herbage Mass and Nutritive Value of Brachiaria spp. (C06-valencia130641-Poster)

Authors:

- E.M.Valencia - *Univ. of the Virgin Islands, Kingshill, USVI*

Abstract:

Brachiaria grasses are adapted to acid soils and productive in high rainfall areas. It is not known whether B. decumbens (Signalgrass) and B. brizantha cv. Marandu would adapt on mildly alkaline soils and semi-arid conditions. This study was conducted in 1999 and 2000 to assess the effect of season (wet and dry) and cutting intervals (CI; 6 and 12 wks) on herbage mass (HM), crude protein (CP) and in vitro organic matter disappearance (IVOMD) of grass entries (Signalgrass and Marandu). Grass entries did not differ ($P > 0.05$) in HM or nutritive value. There were season and CI effects ($P < 0.05$) on HM, CP and IVOMD. Dry season mean HM averaged 1.8 Mg ha compared to 5.3 Mg ha (wet season). Mean HM increased from 1.9 Mg ha (6 wk) to 5.2 Mg ha (12 wk CI), but mean CP and IVOMD decreased from 12% (6 wk CI) to 8.2% (12 wk) and from 57% (6 wk) to 53% (12 wk CI), respectively. Results of this study indicate that Signalgrass and Marandu are limited on HM during the dry season. Grass HM during the wet season (6 wk CI) averaged 3.0 Mg ha, which is lower than guineagrass (4.0 Mg ha). Because of its high HM and excellent CP and IVOMD (12 wk CI), both grasses offer potential for use as stand-over forage on dry heavy clay soils of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Corresponding Author Information:

Elide Valencia
University of the Virgin Islands
RR 2 Box 10,000
Kingshill, VI 00850

phone: 340-692-4033
fax: 340-692-4035
e-mail: evalenc@uvi.edu

Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002
Presentation Time: 4:00-6:00 pm
Poster Board Number: 833

Keywords:

grasses, herbage mass, nutritive value, seasonal variation