VALUE OF CULTURE AND USE OF HYBRIDS OF *Brachiaria decumbens*

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The cultivars of the genus *Brachiaria* are the most widely used since the 60’s as forages by cattle ranchers, among them we highlight the *Brachiaria decumbens* cv. Basilisk, by adapting the Brazilian conditions. However, there is only one cultivar available in the market. This paper reports the partial results of the evaluation of value of cultivation and use (VCU) of five hybrids of *Brachiaria decumbens* candidates for new cultivars. The experiment was arranged in a randomized block design with four replications, hybrids was evaluated in field plots in 4.0 x 6.0 m at Embrapa Beef Cattle in Campo Grande-Brazil and estimate establishment (EST); field green weight (FGW); total dry matter (TDM); leaf dry matter yield (LDM); leaf percentage (LP); leaf: stem ratio (LSR); regrowth ability (REG). The statistical analyses were conducted using the mixed models methodology. The presence of genetic variability for characters LP and LSR, indicating the possibility of gains with selection. There was significance for hybrids x cuts interaction, thus indicating that hybrid performance was not coincidental in the different cuts. Were detected estimates of acuracy of low to very high magnitude and hybrids with better performance in relation to cultivate Basilisk were identified for all characters, except for EST. Being that cultivar Basilisk was in 2nd place for EST, 5th for FGW, 4th for TDM, 8th for LDM, 9th for LP, 9th for LSR and 8th for REG. These partial results indicate possibility of selecting superior hybrids in relation to cultivate Basilisk.

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