

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

FORAGE ACCUMULATION OF TANZANIA GRASS SUBMITTED TO CUTTING FREQUENCIES

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In pastures submitted to rotational stocking, the use of fixed or pre-defined calendars to determine the grazing frequency is limited, since Brazil presents different climates, which vary according to the region and season of the year, resulting in growth pattern of the plants different through the year. The objective was to evaluate the forage accumulation of Tanzania grass (*Panicum maximum* cv. Tanzania) under different cutting frequencies. The experiment was carried out at IFTM - Uberaba campus, from December 2012 to December 2013. The experimental design was completely randomized, in a 2 x 3 factorial, that is, 2 cut frequencies (plants cut when they reached 70 cm of height and cut of the plants with fixed rest period of 28 days) and 3 seasons of the year (summer, fall / winter and spring), with 3 replicates. The pasture height was obtained by the average of 10 points of each experimental unit, three times a week. When the plots allocated in the treatment cut frequency by height of the plant reached 70 cm, they were cut. The plots allocated in the treatment determined by the fixed rest period were cut every 28 days. So, there were six and 12 cuts, respectively, of the plants submitted to frequency by plant height and fixed days. The residue height used was 30 cm. The accumulation of forage by cutting, for plants cut with 70 cm were 2,733.91; 2,750.98; and 2,577.27 kg ha⁻¹ of dry matter (DM), respectively for summer, fall / winter and spring, and no differences were observed between seasons. When fixed cutting frequency days were used, yields of 3,121.04; 703.47; and 6,315.20 kg ha⁻¹ of DM were observed, respectively for summer, fall / winter and spring. In this situation, it was observed higher production in spring, intermediate production in summer and lower production in winter. The total dry matter production in the experimental period was 15,254.57 and 21,306.13 kg ha⁻¹ of DM, respectively, for grasses managed by height and rest period of 28 days. In this way, it was concluded that the 28 day rest period management of the pasture was more productive than pastures managed by height under the conditions of this work.

Keywords: forage, grazing frequency, *Panicum maximum*, plant height, seasons of the year

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