

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

EVOLUTION OF *Panicum* CULTIVARS FORAGE ACCUMULATION RATE DURING ESTABLISHMENT

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The potential of tropical forages for pasture diversification encourages constant evaluations in different systems and locations. Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate the forage accumulation rate (FAR) during the summer season in three sequential harvests of six *Panicum* cultivars. The experimental design used was the randomized block with six treatments and three replicates, totaling eighteen plots. The treatments were composed of six *Panicum*: Massai, Aruana, Tamani, Quênia, Zuri e Mombaça. The measurements evaluated were the mass accumulation in each cultivar and in each harvest. The harvests occurred at 55th, 79th, and 114th day after sowing (DAS) in the plot central area (0,25 m²), when cultivars presented average height between 40 and 60 cm to the medium size and between 40 and 60 cm to the high size. The harvest occurred at 25 and 35-cm stubble height at medium and high size respectively. The FAR was obtained by the forage mass divided by the growth period in days. The data were submitted to analysis of variance and when observed significant difference among harvest and cultivars the Scott-Knott's test was applied to verify the differences (P<0.05). There were difference among the three harvests for every cultivar, with FAR (kg day⁻¹) of 43.3, 539.5, and 989.4, respectively at the three harvests. It wasn't verified differences inside first harvest among the cultivars. In the second harvest Zuri (702.8a) showed superiority, following to Mombaça (636.7b) and Quênia (587.5b), Tamani (476.0c) and Massai (443.8c) ending up with Aruana (390.6d). At the third harvest, the cultivars presented greater variation, with higher accumulation for Zuri (1427.1a) and Mombaça (1420.7a), followed by Quênia (1211.4b), Tamani (761.1c), Massai (601.7d) and Aruana (514.3e). Zuri and Mombaça was showed the best of de study, and Aruana was showed the lowest cultivar. These data confirm the literature recommendations to carry out previous managements to the plants develop their tillering and forage accumulation dynamics to initiate the data collection for research. It is concluded that there are significant differences in the forage accumulation rate among harvests intervals and cultivars during the establishment phase.

Keywords: cultivar development, grass potential, pasture formation, tropical perennials

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