

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## FORAGE ACCUMULATION AND MORPHOLOGICAL COMPONENTS IN CONVERT™ HD364 GRASS HANDLED UNDER GRAZING HEIGHTS

Diogo Rodrigues da SILVA\*<sup>1</sup>, Ulysses CECATO<sup>1</sup>, Sandra GALBEIRO<sup>2</sup>, Renan SANCHES<sup>1</sup>, Marcos Vinícius Coidaras de Campos LUZ<sup>1</sup>, Thiago Trento BISERRA<sup>1</sup>, João Vitor da Rosa VICENTE<sup>2</sup>, Camila Fernandes Domingues DUARTE<sup>1</sup>

\*corresponding author: [diogo\\_rodriguees@hotmail.com](mailto:diogo_rodriguees@hotmail.com)

<sup>1</sup>Maringá State University, Maringá, Paraná, Brazil

<sup>2</sup>Londrina State University, Londrina, Paraná, Brazil

The objective of this study was to forage accumulation (FA) and morphological components: % blade leaf (% BL) and % stem (% S) under different management strategies in continuous stocking. The experimental area was 16 ha, divided into 16 paddocks of approximately one hectare. A randomized block design with four replications was used. The treatments consisted of four grazing heights (15, 25, 35 and 45 cm) of the *Brachiaria* hybrid convert™ HD364. The FA was evaluated in the winter, spring, summer and fall of 2016/2017, with duration of one year, using three cages (1 m<sup>2</sup>) of exclusion per picket. The sample was separated into leaf and stem to estimate the percentage of morphological components. Three animals per picket were used as testers and height-regulating animals, when necessary. Grass height measurements were performed once a week and the accumulation forage were estimated every 28 days. The data were analyzed containing the random effects of blocks, and the fixed effects of grazing height and seasons and their interactions, in the case of significance, regression analysis was carried out, evaluating the effect of height in each season. Tukey's test was used for analysis of means (5% significance). For these analyzes SAS was used. Was observed interaction between seasons of the year and grazing heights to the variable forage accumulation (FA) ( $p = 0.0008$ ) was observed, with the lowest FA values observed in the grasses managed at 16 and 45 cm in the winter season (3751 and 4051 kg.DM<sup>-1</sup> ha). In general, the highest values of FA among the seasons, except for paddocks managed at 45 cm, were observed in the fall season (8376, 9542 and 10401 kg.DM<sup>-1</sup> ha). No interaction between seasons and grazing height was observed for % BL in relation to % BL ( $p = 0.0001$ ), the highest values were observed in the spring, summer and autumn seasons (33, 30 and 28% respectively) while the lowest value was observed in the winter season (18%). It was observed for % C + B interaction between seasons of the year and grazing height ( $p = 0.0021$ ), with the lowest values observed in the 15 and 25 cm winter season (15%). In general, the highest values of % S were observed in the summer season (25, 27, 27 and 26%). It was observed for % S positive quadratic effect in winter season, linear decreasing in spring, quadratic positive in summer and linear increasing in autumn.

**Keywords:** *brachiaria* hybrid, stocking rate, handle grass

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