

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

FORAGE MASS OF A NEW BRACHIARIA RUZIZIENSIS GENOTYPE UNDER ROTATIONAL STOCKING

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The genus *Brachiaria* is more important for the feeding of cattle raised in Brazil. Among the species, *B. ruziziensis* is a nutritional improvement, but is highly susceptible to spittlebugs (*Deois flavopicta*). The breeding work of *B. ruziziensis* carried out by Embrapa, was selected, under the cutting regime, a genotype of high productivity and more resistant to the spittlebugs than the only cultivar available (Kenedy). The objective of this study was to evaluate, under grazing, a forage mass and a potential for the spittlebug of the new genotype, with a Kenedy cultivar as a control. The experiment was conducted at Embrapa Dairy Cattle (Coronel Pacheco, MG) from December 2017 to April 2018. The experiment was carried out in a randomized complete block design with six replicates. For each grass, 10 paddocks of 0.13 ha were distributed. The grazing was performed by dairy cows (Holandes x Zebu), there was rotational stocking regime, with two days of occupation and rest period based on the interception of 95% of the light. The forage mass was estimated by cutting along the soil, through five sample points (0.25 m²), with average vegetation. The leaf blades, culm and senescent material were separated and taken to the forced-air oven at 55° C until constant weight. Sampling to population of spittlebugs were done always who the insect was present in area. The analysis of variance was performed with the Sisvar program and differences of averages was tested by Tukey (P < 0.05). No significant effect on the grasses for non-variable, but the grazing cycles influenced on leaf mass and height pre-grazing. Leaf mass decreased with advancement of cycles (variation of 1219.4 to 1982.9 kg / ha of DM) and pre-grazing height was lower (52.9 cm) at three first cycles, than subsequent cycle (60.3 cm). The variation of mass is justified by the effect of seasonality, marked by higher precipitation in the summer (first half of the experimental period), than in the fall (end phase of the experimental period). Only a low intensity attack of spittlebugs occurred. The number of spittlebugs in the sampling point was 12 and 4 adults, for Kenedy and the new genotype, respectively. Under grazing, as two forages are similar, for the forage mass, but the new genotype is more resistant to the spittlebugs attack than a cultivar Kenedy.

Keywords: forage, management, spittlebugs, structure of the pasture

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