



International Symposium on
GREENER CITIES
FOR MORE EFFICIENT ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
IN A CLIMATE CHANGING WORLD

Bologna - ITALY | 12-15 September 2017

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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S3.A5. Characterization and selection Brazilian native grasses for use as turfgrass

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to characterize eight accessions of Brazilian native grasses, namely *Axonopus parodii* (AP 01), *Paspalum notatum* (PN 01, PN 02, PN 03, PN 04, PN 05 and PN 06) and *P. leptan* (PL 01) as turfgrass. The experiment was conducted in a randomized block design, with four repetitions, in the Rain Forest Zone of the State of Pernambuco, Brazil, from October, 2013 to April, 2014. Two to six month after planting, the accessions were evaluated in terms of mowing frequency, mowing dry biomass (g) and weeds dry biomass (g). At the end of the experiment the turfgrass ornamental appearance was evaluated by scales of notes as: excellent (uniform green color, soil coverage higher than 90%, absence of dry leaves and weeds); pleasant (uniform green color, soil coverage between 75 and 90%, low quantity of dry leaves and weeds); not very pleasant (green color moderate uniform, soil coverage between 60 and 75%, moderate quantity of dry leaves and weeds); unpleasant (green color ununiform, soil coverage below 60%, high quantity of dry leaves and weeds). All accesses reached the cutting heights of 7.5 cm, requiring mowing 10 (PN 01) to 14 (PN 02, PN 03, PN 04 and PN 05) times during the period of two to six month after planting. The PN 02, PN 03 and PN 05 accumulated a higher mowing dry biomass, nevertheless reduce the weeds development, demonstrated by lowest dry biomass observed. Greatest weeds dry biomass was observed in the accession AP 01. Based on the excellent appearance demonstrated by the uniform green color, high soil coverage, low quantity of dry leaves and weeds, the accessions PN 01, PN 03 and PN 05 are suitable for Brazilian breeding programs for a functional purpose of native turfgrasses to urban green space.