Effect of Defoliation on Yield and Chemical Composition of Rhode Gras"^

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Abstract

An experiment was carried out on Pak-chong soil series from May - December 1992 to study the effects of cutting heights and intervals on the dry matter yields and nutritive value of two varieties of Rhode grasses e.g. cv. Callide and Hatsunasu using split - split plot in Randomized Complete Block Design with the main plot being 2 varieties, sub plot and sub-sub plots being 2 cutting heights, 5 and 15 cm. and 3 cutting intervals, 30, 46 and 60 days respectively.

The results showed that neither the varieties nor the two cutting height have significant effects on the dry matter yields of the grasses. Total dry matter yields were 13,389.75 and 12,762.50 kg/ha for Callide and Hatsunasu respectively. No significant difference of yields from cutting intervals at 45 and 60 days were observed but both gave significantly higher yield than cutting at 30 day interval. The dry matter yield were 13,843.75, 14,462.50 and 10,887.50 kg/ha for 45, 60 and 30 day intervals respectively. An average protein content of the grass cut every 30 days was 9.85% which was higher than those treatments receiving 45 or 60 day cutting intervals which were 6.81 and 6.95% respectively. Total protein yields of both varieties cut at 30 day interval was 1,081.25 kg/ha which was higher than those cut at 40 or 60 day intervals.

It was recommended, therefore, that Rhode grasses should be cut every 30 day at 5 - 15 cm high it good yields and higher quality of the forage are to be obtained.

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