Effect of Cutting Height and Cutting Interval on Yield and Chemical Composition of Napier Grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), Dwarf Elephant Grass (*P. purpureum* cv. Mott) and King Grass (*P. purpureum* x *P. americanum*) under Irrigation.*

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**Abstract**

The experiment was conducted to study the effect of cutting height and cutting interval on forage yield and chemical composition of Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), Dwarf elephant grass (*P. purpureum* cv. Mott) and King grass (*P. purpureum* x *P. americanum*) at Chainat Animal Nutrition Research Center over a period of 2 years (1992 - 1994). The experimental design was a split - split plot with 3 species (Napier grass, Dwarf elephant grass and King grass) as the main plot, 3 cutting intervals (at every 30, 40 and 50 days) as sub plot and 3 cutting heights (0, 7.5 and 15 cm.) as sub - subplot. All treatments were replicated 4 times and replicates were arranged as blocks. The results showed that DM. yield's obtained from the 7.5 cm. cutting height and 15 cm. cutting height (2,570 and 2,540 kg/rai, respectively) were higher than when cut at ground level (2,323 kg/rai), DM. yield at the 30 day cutting interval was 2,624 kg/rai, higher than (P < 0.05) that of 40 and 50 day cutting intervals (2,407 and 2,402 kg/rai, respectively). King grass gave the highest DM. yield of 2,608 kg/rai, DM yield's obtained from Napier grass and Dwarf elephant grass were 2,422 and 2,403 kg/rai, respectively.

In term of grass quality Dwarf elephant grass gave 9.3 % CP which higher than King grass and tend to higher than Napier grass, Dwarf elephant grass vesaltedin in the lowest fiber. Cutting at every 30 days gave the highest of 10.1 % CP. The 7.5 cm cutting height resulted in the highest percentage crude protein content and the lowest fiber.

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* Research Project No. 36 - 1324 - 07

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