

SUMMARY

Pastures established with improved grasses such as *Hyparrhenia rufa*, *Panicum maximum* and *Digitaria decumbens* in the humid tropics degrade rapidly due to lack of adaptation and poor management, with the accompanying invasion of less

productive native species such as *Axonopus compressus*, *Paspalum conjugatum* and *Homolepis aturensis*. The mixture of these species is known as "torourco" in Peru. In Pucallpa, Peru, the effect of two systems of soil preparation, three levels of nitrogen and of utilization frequencies on the ability of *Brachiaria decumbens* to recuperate a degraded "torourco" pasture originally sown to *D. decumbens* was evaluated. There were no significant differences in yield (DM t/ha) of *B. decumbens* between soil preparation methods or among frequencies of utilization. However, during the wet season, "torourco" responded significantly more than *B. decumbens* to nitrogen while during the drier period *B. decumbens* responded more than "torourco" to N.

The results show that it is possible to recuperate degraded "torourco" pastures with *B. decumbens* as vegetative material manually sown and with high N applications without eliminating the native grasses or interrupting the utilization of the pasture.