

# Summary

In Rondônia, Brazil, the deferred use of cut pastures constitutes an alternative to satisfy forage requirements for the dry season. This experiment was carried out on a Yellow Latosol of the Unidade de Execução de Pesquisa de Âmbito Estadual experimental farm in Porto Velho, Rondônia (96.3 m.a.s.l., 8°46' S and 63°51' W), with an average annual rainfall of 2000-2500 mm, and a dry season from June to September. The objective was to evaluate three periods of deferment of cutting and four of the use of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) cv. Cameroon, to which 38, 44, and 46 kg/ha of N, P, and K were applied, respectively. Cutting times were February 28, March 30, and April 30. Utilization times were June 30, July 30, August 30, and September 30. An experimental design of random blocks in divided plots with four replicates was used.

The largest yields of dry matter were obtained when the cutting was deferred in February or March and used in July (18.8 t/ha) or August (20.9 t/ha). The greatest CP contents were obtained with the deferment of the April cutting (6.9%). Results indicate the following choices for the use of elephant grass in Rondônia: defer the February cutting and use it in June; defer the March cutting and use it in July or August; or defer the April cutting and use it in September.