

Summary

Contents of total dry matter (TDM) and green matter (GM) were compared in several grasses being grown at Piedrabuena, Tucumán Province, Argentina (26° 44' S, 64° 99' W).

The grasses used were *Cenchrus ciliaris* cv. Biloela and cv. Texas, *Chloris gayana* cv. Común and cv. Tuc Oriental, *Panicum maximum* cv.

Green and cv. Gatton, and *Setaria anceps* cv. Narok. They accumulated forage during the growing seasons of 1988 and 1989, and were cut in the dry (winter) seasons. A complete random block design with five replications was used, in which the main plot contained the cultivar and the subplots the cutting dates. Evaluations were performed at monthly intervals from June to September. In each evaluation, the cut forage was weighed and sampled for TDM and GM. GM was evaluated only in 1989. Analysis of variance and comparison of means for both years were performed, using a factorial arrangement of 7 (cultivars) x 4 (dates) and LSD, respectively.

Cenchrus ciliaris cv. Biloela had the highest values for TDM availability in winter for both years, whereas *C. gayana* cv. Tuc Oriental had the highest for GM (1.17 t/ha).

The significance of the interactions is that a unique model for TDM discharge does not exist. Usually, maximum availability occurs at the beginning of winter (June) and is minimal in August. GM is found only before and after frost. For frost tolerance the grasses ranked, from highest to lowest, *Setaria*, *Chloris*, *Panicum*, and *Cenchrus*. For regrowing capacity, measured as GM at the last cut, the grasses ranked: *Cenchrus*, *Chloris*, *Panicum*, and *Setaria*.