

Summary

The effect of eight dates of precutting on flowering synchronization and seed production in *Andropogon gayanus* CIAT 621 was evaluated at the Experiment Field, Henequenera Zone of INIFAP, Yucatán, Mexico (21° 06' N, 89° 27' W; 6 m.a.s.l.; 860 mm; 26 °C). The precuts were carried out on June 19, July 3 and 18, August 2, 14, and 28, and September 11 and 25, and included a check that received no precut.

First flowering (four floral stems per square meter) appeared within the first fortnight of October, and synchronization improved with precuts on July 18 and August 2. Maximum emergence of floral stems and maximum density of panicles in aperture respectively occurred at about 10 and 30 days after first flowering. Harvesting in the region takes place about 25 November, that is, 49 days after first flowering. The September 25 precut considerably reduced the height of the floral stems, but crude seed yield declined as a result of a lack of flowering synchronization. The number of floral stems per square meter and crude seed yield per hectare did not vary with precutting dates, averaging 49 and 165 kg, respectively.

The results indicated that, in northern Yucatán, the best precut for synchronizing flowering in *A. gayanus* CIAT 621 is between mid-July and the beginning of August.