

# Summary

The effect of shade on the initial growth of five tropical forage grasses was examined in a mountainous area of southeast Brazil. The grass species, *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. Marandú, *B. decumbens*, *Melinis minutiflora*, *Andropogon gayanus* cv. Planaltina and *Panicum maximum* cv. Vencedor, were sown under an "angico-vermelho" (*Anadenanthera macrocarpa*) plantation and in an adjacent area without shade. During the summer, the percentage of light transmission under shade varied from 30%-40% of that in full sunlight. Under the angico-vermelho plantation, the average number of tillers per plant and the average height of plants was reduced, and 5 months after sowing the DM yield of the grasses was depressed to a variable extent depending on the species. *Brachiaria brizantha* and *B. decumbens* had the best establishment, achieving 49% and 33%, respectively, of the growth obtained in full sunlight.