

Summary

The experiment was established at Vale do Curu Experiment Station, in Pentecoste, State of Ceará, Brazil, on an alluvial soil, Typic Torrifluent, with the objective of evaluating the consorciation of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum* Schum) with cunhã (*Clitoria ternatea* L.) for utilization as green chop. A factorial 4 x 4 in a randomized block design with three replications was followed. Four harvesting intervals, that is, 42, 56, 70, and 84 days, and four cultivation systems, i.e., single cunhã (Cun.S), single elephant (Ele.S), elephant grass with one line of cunhã (Ele.C₁), and elephant grass with two lines of cunhã (Ele.C₂), were tested. The highest dry matter production was obtained with Cun.S at the 70 day harvesting interval. The best harvesting interval for the Cun.S, Ele.C₁, and Ele.C₂, was from 56 to 70 days, and for Ele.S was from 70 to 84 days. The introduction of the legume did not affect the dry matter production of the grass, but it did increase the productivity of forage of the system. The consorciation of cunhã with elephant grass constitutes a highly recommended practice to increase the productivity and the nutritive value of the pasture.