

Summary

The experiment was conducted under field conditions at the Department of Animal Science of the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA), MG, with the objective of evaluate the dry matter yield, crude protein (CP) content and yield, efficiency N utilization and apparent N recovery in the grasses Coastcross (*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. x *C. nlemfuensis* Vanderyst), Tifton 68 (*Cynodon* spp.) and Tifton 85 (*Cynodon* spp.) submitted to four nitrogen doses (0, 100, 200, and 400 kg/ha), as ammonium sulphate. The soil in the experimental area was a Distrophic Dark Red Latosol. In starting the experiment, this soil was uly corrected and on the occasion of the planting of the grasses, in November/98, a basic fertilization was applied (with N, P, and K). The experimental design utilized was a randomized block with six replications and the treatments were arranged in a split plot scheme where the plots were made up of the grasses and the subplots of N doses. Nitrogen fertilization enhanced both dry matter and CP content of the grasses studied. The response to N fertilization was differentt for the three grasses. The greatest rates of N utilization were obtained with 100-200 kg/ha of N, and for apparent N recovery best results were obtained by 400 kg/ha of N.