

Summary

The effect of cuttings at 7-day intervals, between 14 and 56 days of growth, on the forage production and quality of *Paspalum atratum* cv. Pojuca grown on gley soil was evaluated in Brasilia, Brazil, from October 1998 to February 1999 during three phases of cutting. The age of 14 days of the first phase corresponded to the initial age of the second phase and the age of 14 days of the second phase corresponded to the initial age of the third phase. A split-plot block design with three replications was used. Crude protein and mineral contents and IVDMD decreased with increasing plant age. These data suggest that the best age for cutting forage is at 35 days when the combination of DM production and forage quality is optimal. The species showed high silica content (> 5%).