

EVALUATION OF GERMOPLASM OF *PASPALUM* GENUS WITH PRODUCTION POTENTIAL FOR FORAGING

AVALIAÇÃO DE GERMOPLASMA DO GÊNERO *PASPALUM* COM POTENCIAL PARA PRODUÇÃO DE FORRAGEM

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This study was carried out in Fazenda Canchim in São Carlos-SP, physical base of Southeast - Embrapa Cattle, aiming to select, based on the agronomic characteristics of productivity of dry matter and quality of the forage, the accesses of suitable gender *Paspalum* for possessing potentiality of use as foraging plants. Were evaluated for 3 years, with 22 forage grasses, being 19 of *Paspalum* and three more of control species: *Brachiaria decumbens*, *Andropogon gayanus* cv. Baetí and *Panicum maximum* cv. Tanzania, submitted to two intensification levels: high (fertilizer after each cut and supplemental irrigation) and low (only fertilizer of annual replacement without irrigation). The experimental design was a randomized complete block with two replications assigned to a split-plot arrangement. Means were compared using the Scott-Knott test. The studied variables were: dry matter production, in vitro dry matter digestibility and crude protein content. The results indicate that the accesses responded to the intensification level minimizing the negative effect of the seasonal production. Based on the studied variables, the selected accesses were: BRA-011401 (*Paspalum glaucescens*); BRA-011681 (*P. atratum*); BRA009661 (*P. atratum*) and BRA-019186 (*P. regnellii*).

Key words: digestibility, productivity, nutritional value.