

## Para Grass

**Common name:** Buffalo grass

**Botanical name:** *Brachiaria mutica* (Forsk.) Stapf.

Para grass is a coarse trailing perennial grass. It is a native of tropical Africa and tropical America (Brazil). It is a water loving grass and grows well on moist soils. It can withstand prolonged water logging. It can be used for green soiling, hay and browsing. Rotational grazing is recommended in para grass. In general, it is propagated through stem cuttings.



### **Soil and its preparation**

All types of soils especially low lying, moist and water logged soils are best suited. First ploughing with soil turning plough followed by two harrowings is required for proper crop establishment.

### **Varieties**

No specific variety has been released as variety. Superior materials from selection are used as planting material.

### **Sowing/planting time**

If irrigation facility is available then crop can be sown between February –March but under rainfed situation crop should be planted just after onset of monsoon i.e. June-July. Planting should be completed before the water stagnates in the low lying areas.

### **Seed rate and sowing method**

It is propagated through stem cutting. About 40000-80000 rooted slips (stem cuttings) are sufficient for the planting of one hectare area. Well prepared seed-bed is required for good crop establishment. Rooted slips at the spacing of 50 cm X 25-50 cm should be planted for better crop establishment.

### **Nutrient management**

It requires 200 kg N, 50 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 50 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/ha per year. A basal dose of 40 kg N, 50 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 50 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/ha should be applied in bands prior to planting. Subsequently 40 kg N should respectively be top dressed after each cut.

### **Water management**

The grass should be planted in well moist soil condition. The crop needs regular irrigation at an interval of 8-10 days. During monsoon seasons, the irrigation is required in the event of long dry spell.

### **Weed management**

Regular hand weeding/hoeing ensures good aeration and crop growth as well as control of weeds.

**Disease and insect-pest management**

No specific pest and disease has been noted. Hence, management of pest is not required.

**Harvesting management**

First cut at 70-80 days after planting and subsequent cuts are obtained at 30-35 days interval. On an average, green fodder yields of 130-140 t/ha is obtained from a uniform stand of para grass.