



Common stylo (*Stylosanthes guianensis*) for livestock feed on small-scale farms

Objective

To provide high quality forage for livestock feed in the warm humid and subhumid tropics

Description

- Herbaceous semi-erect or erect perennial that can reach 1.2 m tall
- Tolerates low soil fertility and adapted to acid soils
- Can survive long dry periods
- Leaf stays green into dry season
- Use as cut and carry green feed, hay or leaf meal

Limits of use

- Susceptible to anthracnose
- Not very palatable, and generally not eaten until autumn
- Susceptible to frost
- Will not stand heavy grazing

Management

Field preparation—well prepared seedbed is required

Establishment—sow at the start of the rains at 1–2 kg/ha, either broadcast or in rows 50 cm apart. Can also be established from vegetative cuttings

Fertilizer—apply 100 kg DAP per hectare during establishment

Weeding—weed once after four weeks and again after eight weeks, then competes well with weeds

Harvesting—cut at early flowering and then at 8–12 weeks intervals to ensure survival

Performance

Expect about 5–10 t/ha dry matter with a crude protein ranging from 12–20% for the whole plant

This information leaflet on livestock feeds and feeding technologies for small-scale farmers is developed through collaboration between ILRI and its partners.

For further information, contact

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