



Shrubby stylo (*Stylosanthes scabra*) for livestock feed on small-scale farms

Objective

To provide high quality forage for livestock feed in the dry tropics

Description

- A shrubby erect perennial legume with strong, woody stems and strong, deep taproot up to 1 m tall
- Good drought resistance
- Well adapted to infertile, acidic soils
- Variable resistance to current strains of anthracnose
- Use as permanent pasture or cut and carry

Limits of use

- Not adapted to heavy clay soils
- Low palatability

Management

Field preparation—well prepared seedbed or can be over-sown into existing pastures

Establishment—sow in rows at 50 cm spacing or broadcast at 1–2 kg/ha

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 lightly graze or cut at 10 cm height at 8 week intervals to ensure good regrowth

Performance

Expect dry matter yields of up to 10 t/ha and crude protein content from 10–20%, reducing with age

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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