

CHARACTERISTICS

Commercial name	Cayman grass
Scientific name	Brachiaria hybrid cv. CIAT BR 02/1752
Growth habit	Tillered; semi-decumbent
Palatability	High
Digestibility	High
Protein potential	Up to 17%
Tolerance to waterlogging	High
Tolerance to drought	Good
Planting density	8–10 kg/ha; zero tillage
Days to first grazing/cut after germination	90–100 days on average
Time in rotation	25–30 days
Maximum height for animals to exit the paddock	30 cm
Soil fertility requirement	Intermediate to high
Adaptation in m above sea level	0–1200 m above sea level
Adaptability to soils with acid pH	High
Resistance to spittlebug attack	High
Uses	Grazing, hay, fresh in feeding trough; its quality and production also make it adequate for use as silage

Exclusive distributor

Producer and International distributor
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Cayman hybrid

Cayman grass, the third hybrid offered for sale by Tropical Seeds LLC, comes from a generation of hybrids developed by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT, its Spanish acronym) and evaluated and selected by the Tropical Pastures Research Center (CIPAT, its Spanish acronym), the research center where the Grupo Papatlotla conducts ongoing evaluations of an array of Brachiaria hybrids.

Resistance to humidity

How did the Papatlotla research team discover that Cayman grass resists high moisture conditions? By evaluating the grass together with other grasses currently sold on the market, such as Toledo, Marandú, Plata, and Mulato, under conditions of extreme moisture for periods of more than 30 days. After 10 days, several of the grasses began to deteriorate, dying long before the end of the evaluation period. Cayman grass not only survived, but was only surpassed by Brachiaria humidicola, well known for its ability to adapt to humid soils, but presenting a lower nutritional quality, yield, and establishment capacity as compared with Cayman grass.



Main characteristics

- ✓ More meat, more milk with enhanced nutritional quality
- ✓ Higher stocking rate
- ✓ Highly palatable
- ✓ Stoloniferous growth
- ✓ Tolerant to drought
- ✓ Resistant to diseases and pests (spittlebug) and also...

✓ Resistant to moist soils



Type of growth

With a tillered growth habit, the Cayman grass produces abundant stolons. In addition, in high moisture conditions, this grass modifies its growth habit and develops, early during its growth cycle, a large number of decumbent stems, which produce tillers and roots at the nodes, a characteristic similar to that of Brachiaria humidicola. These superficial roots give the plant support, absorb nutrients, and supply oxygen to the plant in these adverse conditions of poor drainage.



Researchers Dr. Lynn Sollenberger, Dr. Andre Soares, and Dr. João Vendramini of the University of Florida Beef Research Unit in Gainesville evaluated the forage production, nutritive value, and persistence of Cayman grass submitted to grazing by 1-year-old Brahman x Angus heifers from May to October of both 2010 and 2011, with a 30-day-interval between grazings. Results for 2010 are presented below:

Nutritive value	Forage production				Plant height	
	Protein	Digestibility	Composition	Dry matter	Pre-grazing	Post-grazing
Leaves	17 %	70 %	62 %	10,6 kg/ha	57 cms	19 cms
Stems	10 %	58 %	32 %			
Dead matter			7 %			

