



MOMBASA GUINEA GRASS

Panicum maximum cv.Mombasa





Productivity

Mombasa guinea grass is a tall grass, similar to hybrid Napier grass in habit, but far more leafy and is very suitable for cut-and-carry. It is a very productive leafy grass, producing between 20 and 40 t/ha dry matter per year.

Crude protein levels

8-12% crude protein in Thailand on poor soils and 12-14 % crude protein on better soils.

Animal production

No data from Thailand, but in South America, liveweight gains of 770 kg/ha/yr compared with 600, and 590 kg/ha/yr from Tanzanias guinea and Tobiata guinea grasses. It is more productive than Tanzania guinea (TD58; Purple guinea) with over 20% more leaf dry matter.

Grazing management

Can be either rotationally grazed or set stocked. Management depends on the farmer's experience. Most farmers in South America prefer cut-and-carry. Therefore cut every 40-45 **Establishment:** Can be either planted in rows, 50 cm apart, or broadcast sown at 6-8 kg/ha. Sow the seed on to the soil surface, brush the seed with soil by using tree branches or large brooms. Bury the seed no more than 1-2 cm under the soil. It is easy to plant from rooted tillers.

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Background

It was introduced into Brazil from Tanzania in 1993, from near Korogwe, Tanzania (5.20°S 38.50°E, 290 m [asl](#), [rainfall](#) 1,050 mm). Large tussocks to 2 m, stems tinged with purple. Leaves are long, to 3 cm wide, with short hairs on the upper surface; leaf sheaths are [glabrous](#). Good [drought](#) and cold tolerance. Dry matter yield 17-28% more than that of Tanzania guinea.

Seed

Seed produced in Thailand is harvested by hand and has a purity of over 98%. It is pure-to type with no other guinea grass seeds in Mombasa seed from Thailand.



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