



## COBRA

CIAT GP02/1794

### GENERALITIES

**Growth habit:**

Erect

**Life cycle:**

Perennial

**Production:**

35-40 tons DM /ha per year

**Protein potential:**

14-16%

**Digestibility:**

69%

**Use:**

Intensive forage production

**Plant height**

1.20-1.50 m 47.24-59.05 inches

**Leaf:stem ratio:**

High (80:20)

**Spittlebug:**

Tolerant

**Tolerance to flooding:**

Poor

**Planting method:**

Broadcast or furrow planting

**Planting depth:**

Maximum 2 cm 0.7874 inches

**Planting density:**

8-10 kg seed/ha 17.63lb-22.04/acre

**Days to establishment:**

90-150 days

**Precipitation:**

Minimum 500 mm

**Use of irrigation:**

Consult advisor

**Altitude above sea level:**

0-1,400 m

**Soil fertility:**

Good; abundant forage

**Soil pH:**

4.5-8

**Uses:**

As green forage or hay

### FACT SHEET

Cobra grass has bright green pubescent stems and leaves. It requires well drained soils of medium-to-high fertility. Cobra grass is planted at a density of 8 kg/ha using a sorghum planter, calibrated to sow 15 seeds/linear meter. A second pass of the planter between the first rows planted ensures planting at 50 cm between furrows.

Cobra grass can also be planted using a zip line or seed can be broadcasted manually at 8 kg/ha (40 seeds per square meter).

Seed must be treated with insecticides to avoid being carried away by ants or birds. Insecticides containing the following active ingredients are recommended: bifenthrin + imidacloprid, thiodicarb, and thiamethoxan. These should be applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Fallow land can be prepared as usual or with 2 passes of a conventional harrow. Cobra grass seeds require a maximum planting depth of 2 cm. In the case of cultivated soils, seed could be planted too deep. To avoid this situation, preplanting soil preparation is recommended, either using a roller or by passing tires or a heavy log, or submitting the area to heavy irrigation to stabilize the land and prepare a seedbed for better planting results.

In the presence of broadleaf weeds, control practices should be performed 30-45 days after planting, applying small doses of herbicide, for example picloram + 2,4-D.

Soils in tropical Latin America are generally poor in N-P-K. Therefore the use of fertilizers containing these elements helps improve pasture establishment, plant growth, and pasture management, thus obtaining high-quality forage. Soil analyses should be conducted to precisely determine soil components. However, the general recommendation is to apply 50-50-50 N-P-K/ha per year.

The first cut of Cobra grass should be performed 90-110 days after germination. If climatic conditions are favorable and crop management adequate, once the pasture is established cutting can be conducted at 50-day intervals.

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