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Rendimiento y composición química del forraje de Huizachillo (*Desmanthus virgatus* L. var. *depressus* Willd) bajo condiciones de cultivo

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Abstract

Beef and goat production is an important economic activity in the arid regions in Nuevo León, México. However, this activity is limited by insufficient forage production, because of adverse environmental conditions. A potential alternative is to incorporate into the cropping system native species with forage value. A study, in Marín, Nuevo León, was performed in 1995 to evaluate the forage production of *Desmanthus virgatus* L. var. *depressus* Willd. This plant is native from the dry areas of northern México. The effects of different population densities and cutting systems on forage yields were evaluated. In addition, the effect of population density on forage chemical composition. A factorial 4 x 4 completely randomized design with four replications was used. Treatments four densities were (3, 4, 6, and 8 plants/m²) four consecutive cuts; in each cut, dry matter yield was determined. A chemical proximal analysis and calcium and phosphorus contents of the forage obtained from the third cut was the also performed. Population density and cutting interaction was significant, since forage yield increased in the highest first and fourth cuts proportionally to population density ($P < 0.05$); however, in the second and third cuts forage yield was at 6 plants/m². The cumulated forage yield was higher at the densities of 6 and 8 plants/m². The chemical composition of the forage in the third cut, was similar among the four population densities.

Keywords

Desmanthus virgatus L., population density, forage yield, forage legume, arid regions.

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