

Especie: Sugangras

Variety: Estanzuela Comiray

- Thin stems and very good leaf-to-stem ratio.
- Rapid post-grazing regrowth capacity.
- High tillering ability.
- Excellent drought resistance.
- Adapted to a wide range of environments.

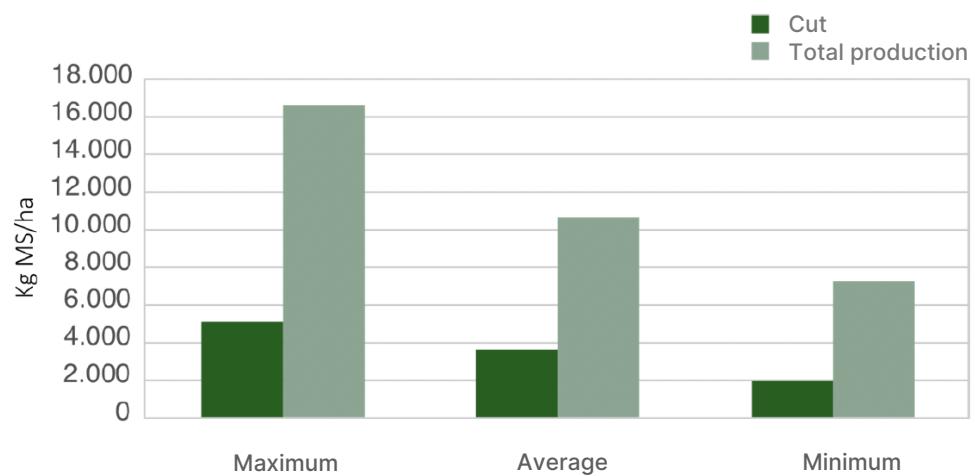
Estanzuela Comiray (*Sorghum sudanense*) is an open-pollinated cultivar. It was released to the market in the 1980s and is currently the most widely planted sudangrass cultivar in Uruguay. It possesses the typical characteristics of the species, including relatively thin stems (5 to 15 mm in diameter), long and narrow leaves, and high tillering ability, reaching a plant height of over 3 meters when grown for seed production. Its root system is branched and does not produce rhizomes. The seed coat exhibits bright colors, with black, dark brown, chestnut, and yellow seeds found within the same lot.

Due to its reproductive nature, it can crossbreed with other sorghum types, including Aleppo Sorghum, so special care must be taken regarding isolation distances during seed production.



Its tillering capacity is higher than that of hybrid forage sorghums, as is the survival rate of plants subjected to successive grazing. The forage quality provided by Estanzuela Comiray and the better utilization achieved under grazing due to its thin stems result in good productive outcomes, especially in dairy systems and beef cattle fattening.

Although sudangrasses are known for their ease of management under direct grazing rather than cutting comparisons, their dry matter (DM) production levels are very good, even in extreme years, with possible daily growth rates exceeding 100 kg DM/ha/day.



Graph 1: Forage production of Estanzuela Comiray.

Source: *National Cultivar Evaluation INASE-INIA: 1999–2001, 2003–2006.*

Implementation and management

Estanzuela Comiray forage crops can be sown starting in October and adapt very well to no-till planting.

The earlier the crops are sown—without reaching extremes that affect establishment due to low soil temperatures or frost risk—the longer the utilization period, potentially completing the productive cycle with grazing in March–April depending on yearly conditions and management.

Although sudangrasses generally have lower susceptibility to stem breakage than hybrid sorghums, it is recommended to begin grazing when forage height is around 70 cm, since taller heights cause high forage losses due to plant lodging and trampling by animals. Differences in trampling susceptibility between sudangrass and some hybrid forage sorghums become more evident in very wet soil conditions. Grazing should be stopped leaving a forage residual of no less than 15 cm to favor regrowth.

Grazing should be done with a maximum number of animals in a minimum amount of time to reduce losses from trampling and lodging. However, due to the plant's general characteristics and growth, this cultivar allows more flexibility in management and does not require intensive handling as the only option.

It is possible to establish mixed sowings with red clover in October plantings.

This practice is recommended in conventional sowing situations, allowing:

- Reduction of pasture establishment costs
- Availability of high-quality, high-yield potential pasture by late autumn.

Recommended Use

Suitable for use in a variety of production systems, most notably intensive dairy and beef farms under direct grazing.

Its wide adaptability to different soils makes it suitable for various regions of the country.



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