

Especie: Sudangrass

Variety: INIA Sarubí

- Very good adaptation to grazing
- Excellent leaf health
- Seed more distinguishable from Johnsongrass
- An alternative source of forage at the beginning of autumn

INIA Surubí (*Sorghum sudanense*) is an open-pollinated cultivar selected for forage production, leaf health, seed color, and size, based on the recombination of various introduced genotypes. It has been commercially available since 2003. The plant has a semi-erect growth habit, with a notable tillering capacity, as well as fine stems and leaves. Its seeds are predominantly orange, with the presence of yellow, red, brown, and some black ones. INIA Surubí has larger seeds than Estanzuela Comiray, exceeding it by 25 to 30% in weight.

Its resistance to local and systemic downy mildew in leaves and tillers, respectively, is outstanding, clearly surpassing the performance of Estanzuela Comiray.



	Mildiu Local		Mildiu Sistémico	
	Promedio	Máximo	Promedio	Máximo
INIA Surubí	2	5	9	13
Estanzuela Comiray	6	15	30	64

Table 1: Resistance to local downy mildew (% in leaves) and systemic downy mildew (number of affected tillers).

Source: National Cultivar Evaluation INASE-INIA; 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005.

It tolerates intensive management, showing high resistance to trampling and strong regrowth capacity after cutting or grazing. It can also be managed in a more extensive system, as the forage characteristics allow for this flexibility.

The slower decline in growth rate towards the end of summer helps extend the grazing period, making it possible to plan part of its forage contribution for the beginning of autumn.

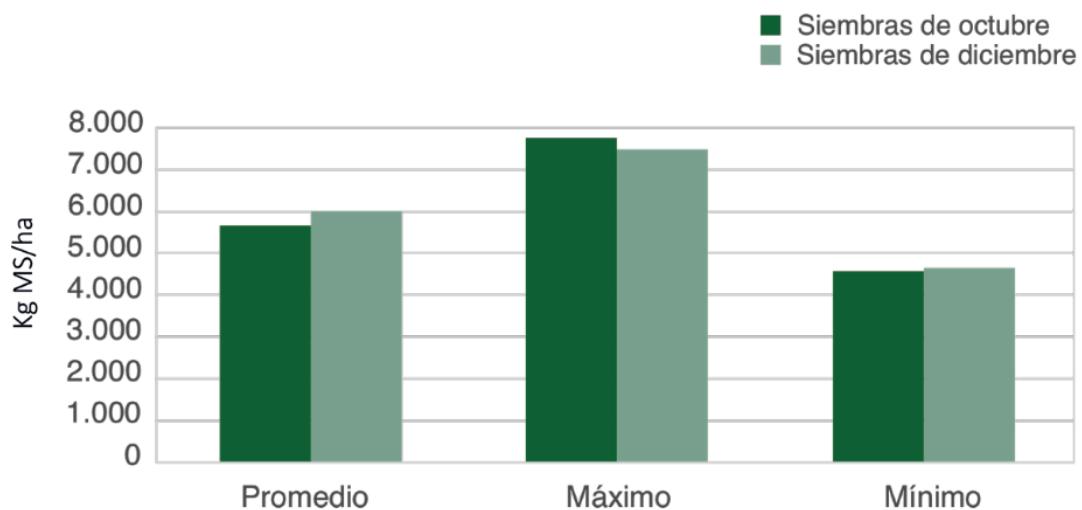


Figure 1: Forage production of INIA Surubí in March harvests.

Source: National Cultivar Evaluation INASE-INIA; 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.

Establishment and Management

It adapts to a wide range of soils, from medium to high fertility, standing out for its drought tolerance. It can be established through either no-till or conventional sowing, with special attention needed to ensure soil temperatures are adequate for rapid crop establishment.

The sowing period can extend from October to December, allowing for staggered forage availability according to the needs of the farm. It is advisable not to delay grazing until plants are too tall, as the proportion of leaves in the forage decreases with delayed grazing. This is due to the fact that late plant growth is mainly based on stem development, which has lower nutritional quality.

A rotational grazing system is recommended, with appropriate stocking rates that allow for efficient pasture utilization. With early planting and proper management, three to four grazing cycles with significant forage yield can be achieved.

If the forage is intended for haymaking, the best cutting time is when the crop reaches 80 to 100 cm in height, as this provides a good balance between forage yield and quality.

Recommended Use

Its primary use is direct grazing by dairy or beef cattle. Its excellent plant health and structural characteristics also make it a good option for forage conservation (hay, silage, or chopped forage).



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