Gayanda

Blue Buffalo Grass

(Cenchrus ciliaris)

Blue buffalo is a grass that is adapted to warm, low rainfall areas in SA, having a relatively good drought resistance. It is widely adapted to soil types, except light sand, and prefers alkaline soils. It has very deep roots of up to 1 500 m and has rhizomes that allow it to produce more tillers. It is normally used for cattle but can also be utilized by sheep and horses or used for making hay.

Establishment

- November, February and March are the best seeding months
- Rolling the soil is essential

Soil preparation

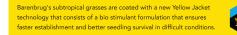
- Reacts favourably when soils are loosened before the summer rains
- Heavy soils that crack during winter need less loosening than lighter soils
- Cultivation should not be done in winter, seeing that it can lead to dying off of the grass

Utilization

- Grazing normally starts in November for mature Buffalo grass when the grass is 300 mm long
- It is best if the grass is either lightly or completely grazed down
- If not, the result would be a mix of new leaves and old stalks, reducing palatability
- It can be utilized as both a very quick rotation and a relative long grazing period
- At the beginning of summer, the grass grows quicker, making it more challenging to implement grazing systems
- It is recommended to make hay or be rested during winter
- Remove all the old material at the end of winter
- Keep it as leafy as possible

<u>GAYANDA</u>

Fine, medium-short, tufted, non-rhizomatous type, to 90 cm tall (commonly 30-60 cm), mid-season flowering, suitable for light to medium textured soils. It has very good stock acceptance and is characterised by its dense tillers. It has a lower growth height than Molopo, making it a better option for sheep.



Specifications



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