

Italian ryegrass cultivars production associated or not with oat black under two post-grazing residues

Produção de cultivares de azevém consorciados ou não com aveia preta sob dois resíduos de pastejo

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to define the input height to grazing and evaluate forage production of Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum* Lam.) cv. Barjumbo and cv. Common associated or not with oat black forage (*Avena strigosa* Schreb) cv. IAPAR 61, submitted to two post-grazing. Treatments consisted of a 4x2 factorial design, totaling eight treatments with three replications, being evaluated common and Barjumbo ryegrass, single and mixed with black oat in two highs of post-grazing residue: High: 50% of input height; Low: 30% of input height. Single Common ryegrass and combined with black oat obtained higher production than Barjumbo cultivate, and greater accumulation rate only when intercropped with black oat. Leaf blades production did not differ among cultivars. Stems production was low to Barjumbo cultivar. Black oat production was higher when associated with Barjumbo. Input height to Italian ryegrass cultivars with 95% light interception was 26.86 cm to Barjumbo and 28.75 cm to common cultivar, and when combined with black oat 34.01 cm and 32.48 cm, respectively.

Key words: *Avena strigosa* Schreb. Barjumbo. Stem. Leaf blade. *Lolium multiflorum*.

Resumo

O objetivo deste estudo foi definir a altura de entrada para pastejo e avaliar a produção de forragem do azevém (*Lolium multiflorum* Lam.) cv. Barjumbo e do azevém comum (*Lolium multiflorum*) consorciados ou não com aveia (*Avena strigosa* Schreb) cv. IAPAR 61 submetidos a resíduos de pastejo. Os tratamentos foram constituídos de um bifatorial 4x2, totalizando oito tratamentos com três repetições, sendo avaliados os azevém comum e Barjumbo solteiros e consorciados com aveia preta em duas alturas de resíduo pós-pastejo: Alto: 50% da altura de entrada; Baixo: 30% da altura de entrada. O azevém comum solteiro e no consórcio com aveia obteve maior produção que o cultivar Barjumbo, e maior taxa de acúmulo apenas quando consorciado com aveia. A produção de folhas não diferenciou entre os cultivares, apenas a produção de colmo que foi menor para o cultivar Barjumbo. A produção de aveia foi maior quando consorciada com o cultivar Barjumbo. A altura de entrada para os cultivares de azevém com 95% de interceptação luminosa foi de 26,86 cm para o Barjumbo e 28,75 cm para o comum, e quando consorciados com aveia de 34,01 cm e 32,48 cm, respectivamente.

Palavras-chave: *Avena strigosa* Schreb. Barjumbo. Colmo. Lâmina foliar. *Lolium multiflorum*.

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Introduction

In Brazil, most of cattle production is pasture-grazed. The advantages of using pastures in ruminant production is their low cost, since the animal itself does the forage harvesting, making the conversion of vegetable protein into animal protein, which has higher biological value. However, it is necessary to properly pasture management, maintaining productive potential and nutritional quality, respecting animal requirements (OLIVO et al., 2009). In southern Brazil, among practices that can be adopted to increase animal productivity in pasture, is used cool-season pastures, which when well managed are shown economically viable (SOARES; RESTLE, 2002).

Italian ryegrass cv. common is one of the species most commonly used in these systems, mainly because of natural reseeding convenience, disease resistance, high productive potential and the possibility of intercropping with other species. Thus, Italian ryegrass consortium with black oat aims to associate the two species production peaks, which happen in different periods, extending the grazing period (ROCHA et al., 2007), thus reducing seasonality in forage availability.

Common ryegrass production also varies with its management, as verified by Pontes et al. (2004) who observed different forage mass production, handling at different times, checking that swards grazed at 20 cm (3,600 kg ha⁻¹) disclosed higher mass production when compared with heights of 15, 10 and 5 cm (2,400, 2,200 and 920 kg ha⁻¹, respectively). Italian ryegrass is a grass that can assume two pruning levels (2n = 2x = 14 chromosomes or 2n = 4x = 28 chromosomes), what determines different characteristics, both phenotypic and genotypic. This chromosomes duplication affects plant performance because there is an increase in cell volume (BALOCCHI; LÓPEZ, 2009).

Therefore, rises water content, soluble carbohydrates, proteins and lipids, which increases plant digestibility and, consequently, rumen

efficiency and animal performance (SMITH et al., 2001). Thus, some producers are already using tetraploid cultivars, which present some different characteristics from diploid ryegrass, such as initial rapid production and total mass high production, in addition to having a longer growing season compared to diploid cultivars (FARINATTI et al., 2006).

The grazing to rotational stocking is given when it reaches 95% of light interception by forage canopy, being this the point where there is maximum forage accumulation rate (SILVA, 2015). The grazing animal output point is more flexible and may vary according to grazing purpose, opting for higher animal performance or greater production per hectare (DIFANTE et al., 2009).

The objective of this study was to evaluate Italian ryegrass production (*Lolium multiflorum* Lam.) cv. Barjumbo and cv. Common associated or not with black oat (*Avena strigosa* Schreb) cv. IAPAR 61 under two post-grazing residues.

Material and Methods

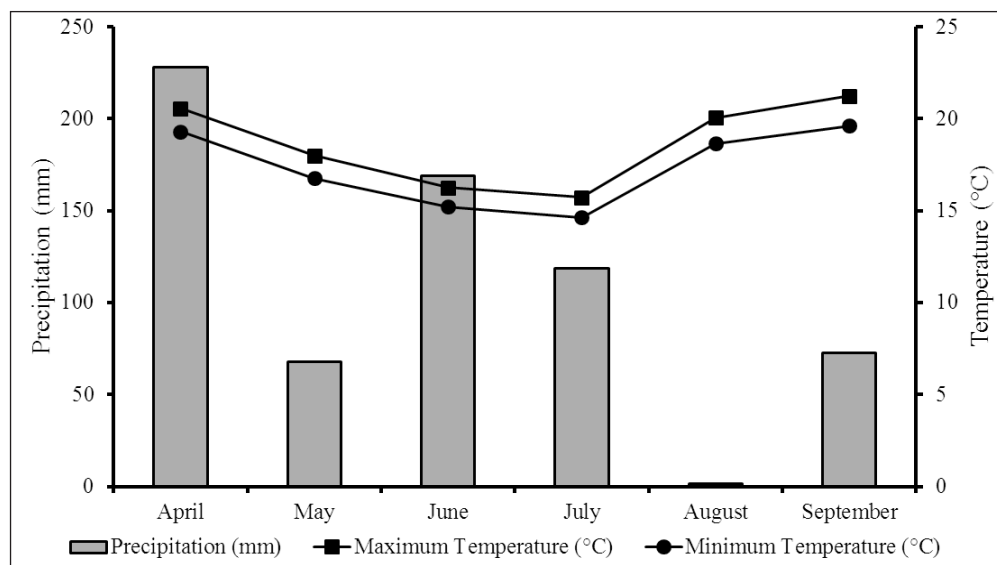
The work was conducted from April to September 2012 in Federal Technological University of Paraná - Campus Dois Vizinhos, with an altitude of 520 m, latitude 25°44' South and longitude 54°04' West, where the climate is mesothermal humid subtropical (Cfa), according to Köppen classification (ALVARES et al., 2013). The soil belongs to red distroferric Nitosol mapping unit, clayey, wavy relief (BHERING; SANTOS, 2008). Precipitation and maximum and minimum temperatures during the experiment period are shown in Figure 1, according to data from National Institute of Meteorology weather station (INMET, 2012). As can be seen, in August there was a severe rainfall restriction, which led the analysis to be completed in September.

In April 2012, the species were seeding carried out manually haul with use of closed harrow to

cover the seeds. Seeding density used was 20 kg ha⁻¹ of viable seeds of Barjumbo ryegrass, 30 kg ha⁻¹ of viable seeds of Common ryegrass and 50 kg ha⁻¹ of oat viable seeds cv. IAPAR 61 to

intercropping treatments. Soil chemical analysis of the experimental field and subsequent correction were performed. Nitrogen fertilization used was 150 kg ha⁻¹ N, divided into three applications, after the first three grazing.

Figure 1. Precipitation and maximum and minimum temperature in the city of Dois Vizinhos, Paraná, from April to September 2012 (INMET, 2012).



We evaluated Common and Barjumbo ryegrass, singles and mixed with black oat in two post-grazing heights: High: 50% of input height; Low: 30% of input height. Treatments consisted of a 4x2 factorial (species x post-grazing heights), distributed in a randomized block design with three replications. The area was divided into paddocks of 150 m² each, using electric fence.

Jersey cows were used for grazing until the desired height (high and low). Time in which animals were kept in pasture varied with post-grazing recommended. Animals entry was conducted at the time that the grazing reached 95% of light interception (LI). The determination of LI and leaf area index were undertaken with canopy analysis instrument model SunScan Type SS1-COM-R4, through 10 readings per paddock. Pasture height was measured at 10 random points by using picket-graduated ruler.

Variables analyzed were pasture height to 95% light interception, leaf area index, forage yield, Italian ryegrass production (total, leaf blade and stem), oat production (total, leaf blade and stem), daily accumulation rate and grazing interval.

To evaluate variables were performed three material collections by paddock. Cuts were made close to the ground before and after animals input and output, with scissors and a square of 0.25 m². Upon removal and homogenized, the sampling was divided in two, being one to dry matter determination in oven with forced ventilation (55°C) and the other was subjected to botanical separation (Common ryegrass, Barjumbo ryegrass and oat black pasture) and structural components (leaf blade, stem and senescent material) of their components to determine forage yield of different species and plant constituents.

Forage yield were determined by forage mass difference pre-grazing and post-grazing from previous period. The value reached was divided by the number of days of grazing intervals to determine daily accumulation rates.

Obtained data underwent variance analysis and was applied “t” test at 5% error probability to average comparison of the experimental period, using SAS software (2011).

Results and Discussion

It was not observed interaction between cultivar x height factors. However, there was noticed difference between the evaluated cultivars to forage total yield, and Common ryegrass had

higher production than Barjumbo ryegrass, both single and in consortium with black oat (Table 1). Despite expectations of higher production to Barjumbo cultivar, this didn't happen due to water restriction that occurred in the experimental period, especially in the months of August and September (Figure 1), which has deadpan this species potential production, as Barjumbo ryegrass produced significant forage mass until the months of October and November (FARINATTI et al., 2006). Barjumbo ryegrass is a kind of tetraploid Italian ryegrass developed in order to achieve greater productivity, longer growing season, higher proportion of leaf blades and better nutritional quality (DORS, 2009). However, it is observed that Barjumbo ryegrass has less resistance to droughts than common cultivar.

Table 1. Total dry matter yield and daily accumulation from two cultivars of Italian ryegrass (Common and Barjumbo cultivars) associated or not with oat black forage under two post-grazing residues.

Post-grazing	Total Dry Matter Yield (kg ha ⁻¹)				Average	VC (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	4818	4971	6939	7125	5963	11.43
Low	4491	5227	6562	7269	5887	
Average	4654 b	5099 b	6751 a	7197 a		
Post-grazing	Daily Accumulation Rate (kg ha ⁻¹ day ⁻¹)				Average	VC (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	57.1	40.7	66.8	59.1	55.9 A	12.62
Low	42.3	43.3	47.6	56.7	47.6 B	
Average	49.7 ab	42.0 b	57.2 a	58.0 a		

High: output with 50% of input height; Low: output with 30% of input height.

Averages followed by different letters differ in the lower row and column statistically differ by “t” test (p < 0.05).

Some variables in this study had results affected by water deficit in the period, that is because, according to Kaiser (1987), water deficit cause stoppage of photosynthesis due to CO₂ entering decrease in plants. This occurs because of turgidity reduction in leaf stoma guard cells, causing pores closure (SILVA et al., 2001), since these stomata

act in CO₂ inlet regulation and water loss through transpiration.

Rocha et al. (2007) evaluating black oat and Italian ryegrass mixture on production and quality, based on two established methods, found total forage yield average of 7,444 kg DM ha⁻¹, which is a similar result to that from Common ryegrass

with black oat intercropping, presented in this work. Flores et al. (2008a), evaluating forage production of Common ryegrass populations in Rio Grande do Sul state, observed single Common ryegrass total production of 5,166 kg DM ha⁻¹.

Post-grazing height did not differ to total forage production (Table 1). Fact that proves that even at grazing being lowered to a lower height (30% of input height), it can provide the same production over its cycle, most likely by good soil fertility and nitrogen fertilization, which was performed after the first three collections, period that run-up water restriction. Bortolo et al. (2001) neither found difference in total forage production evaluating coastcross pasture under eight different residual levels. A similar result was found by Marcelino et al. (2006), which reported no difference in marandu grass yield under two grazing intensities (10 and 20cm).

It was observed effect between treatments for daily accumulation rate in which Common ryegrass (single and intercropped) submitted higher rates than Barjumbo ryegrass intercropped with black oat, but were statistically similar to Single Barjumbo ryegrass (Table 1). This reduced Barjumbo ryegrass accumulation rate, intercropped with black oat. Comparing single Italian ryegrass cultivars, it is not noticed difference probably because leaf area index neither presented any difference. This happens because leaf blade recovery after grazing depends largely on the remaining leaf area (ROCHA et al., 2007). Pellegrini et al. (2010) evaluating Common ryegrass production and quality, subjected to nitrogen fertilization under grazing by sheep, observed average values of 48.7 kg DM ha⁻¹ day⁻¹. Ribeiro et al. (2009) in Italian ryegrass pasture with sheep grazing, found average 58.4 kg DM ha⁻¹ day⁻¹. The accumulation rate reached in this experiment, and setting a forage allowance of 6 kg DM 100 Kg LW⁻¹ day⁻¹, it is possible to calculate stocking. In this sense, we have stocking support to single Barjumbo cultivar of 1,452 kg LW ha⁻¹,

and 1,197 kg LW ha⁻¹ in the consortium. Common ryegrass has higher stocking supports, both single and intercropped, with 1,970 and 1,590 kg LW ha⁻¹, respectively.

Greater accumulation rate was observed to post-grazing height (50% of input height). Thus, this result shows that the highest residue provides more photosynthetic active leaf blades, which provides a higher accumulation rate. In a study by Flores et al. (2008b), the authors checked out similar results on marandu grass and xaraes grass, where most post-grazing height (40 cm) disclosed higher accumulation rate than 15 cm height.

Single Common ryegrass featured higher yield than the other treatments (Table 2). In treatments where there is intercropping, logically production was lower because it was production of single ryegrass, isolating from oat production. This is because plants compete in for resources such as light, water and nutrients (ZANINE; SANTOS, 2004). However, it is realized that Common ryegrass, when intercropping, presented greater production than intercropped Barjumbo ryegrass and the same production that single Barjumbo ryegrass. Flores et al. (2008a), evaluating different Italian ryegrass germplasm, discovered productions of 5,166, 4,773 and 6,349 kg DM ha⁻¹ for common cultivar, San Gabriel and Sarandi respectively. Goral et al. (2013), evaluating forage yield of oat and Italian ryegrass cultivars under nitrogen fertilization, found not difference in production to Common and Barjumbo cultivars (5,263 and 5,037 kg DM ha⁻¹, respectively).

Leaf blade yield to single Barjumbo ryegrass was similar to Single Common ryegrass (Table 2), demonstrating Barjumbo ryegrass great potential, because even in a water restriction period exhibited substantial yield leaf blade, which is desirable for display better quality than the stem, being able to provide greater animal performance. In intercropping treatment, production was lower, which was expected due to black oat participation.

Table 2. Total yield (leaf blade + stem), leaf blade and stem production of two cultivars (Common and Barjumbo) of Italian ryegrass associated or not with oat black forage under two post-grazing residues.

Post-grazing	Total Italian Ryegrass Yield (kg ha ⁻¹)				Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	4900	1660	6609	4052	4305	21.19
Low	4442	1302	6902	5399	4511	
Average	4671 b	1481 c	6756 a	4725 b		
Post-grazing	Italian Ryegrass Leaf Blade yield (kg ha ⁻¹)				Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	4460	1482	4008	1459	2852	23.66
Low	4186	1214	4148	3162	3177	
Average	4323 a	1348 c	4078 a	2311 b		
Post-grazing	Italian Ryegrass Stem Yield (kg ha ⁻¹)				Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	440	178	2601	2593	1453	25.28
Low	257	88	2754	2237	1334	
Average	348 b	133 b	2678 a	2415 a		

High: output with 50% of input height; Low: output with 30% of input height.

Averages followed by different letters differ in the lower row and column statistically differ by "t" test ($p < 0.05$).

Stem yield was higher to Common ryegrass, both single and intercropped, further reinforcing the concept that Barjumbo ryegrass has great potential. It produced around 93% leaf blade when single, and 91% intercropped, while single Common ryegrass produced approximately 60% leaf blades and 49% intercropped. Leaf blade proportions found by Flores et al. (2008a) were approximately 35, 49 and 51% to common cultivars, San Gabriel and Sarandi respectively, which are similar to Common ryegrass proportions in this work. Similar to these values, Bratti et al. (2009) observed about 53% leaf blades to Common ryegrass.

Among the different heights of post-grazing residue, there were no differences in leaf blade and stem yield to Italian ryegrass (Table 2). This result was because there was no LAI difference between different heights, which provided a similar regrowth. Cutrim Junior et al. (2011) checked similar results assessing Tanzania grass canopy structural

characteristics, submitted to three defoliation frequencies and two post-grazing residues. They found no difference in leaf blades and stem yield.

In variables related to black oat (total, leaf blade and stem yield) was observed difference between treatments (Table 3), and black oat, when intercropped with Barjumbo ryegrass, presented higher production in both variables. This difference is attributed to the fact that Barjumbo ryegrass yield was lower. Thus, black oat could develop better because in the forage canopy plants compete for environment resources (light, water, nutrients, etc.) (ZANINE; SANTOS, 2004). In addition, Common ryegrass demonstrated to have allelopathic effect on other plants, that is, damaging their development (MORAES et al., 2009). Demétrio et al. (2012), evaluating oat cultivars yield, under different cut managements, discovered higher values to single black oat cv. IAPAR 61 (4,397 kg ha⁻¹).

To different post-grazing residue heights, none of the variables related to black oat showed significant differences. This was because it was not

observed difference in LAI between heights, thus the plants, even being demoted to lower height, still contained sufficient amount of leaf blade to conduct photosynthesis and allow a good regrowth.

Table 3. Total yield (leaf blade + stem), leaf blade and stem production of oat black forage intercropped with Italian ryegrass Barjumbo or Common cultivars under two post-grazing residues.

Post-grazing	Total Oat Production (kg ha ⁻¹)		Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass	Common ryegrass		
High	3491	2960	3225	25.72
Low	3928	1851	2889	
Average	3709 a	2406 b		
Post-grazing	Oat Black Leaf Blade (kg ha ⁻¹)		Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass	Common ryegrass		
High	2267	1872	2069	16.76
Low	2473	1499	1986	
Average	2370 a	1686 b		
Post-grazing	Oat Black Stem (kg ha ⁻¹)		Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass	Common ryegrass		
High	1224	1088	1156	38.86
Low	1455	352	904	
Average	1339 a	720 b		

High: output with 50% of input height; Low: output with 30% of input height.

Averages followed by different letters differ in the lower row and column statistically differ by “t” test ($p < 0.05$).

Grazing input height presented treatments effect. It was verified that intercropped treatments had higher input heights than treatments with single Italian ryegrass (Table 4). This is due to black oat presence, since it requires a greater height to achieve 95% of light interception. However, Bratti et al. (2009), evaluating Common ryegrass and black oat, in single culture and intercropped, detected no difference in input heights of Common ryegrass (40.51 cm) and intercropped with black oat (40.26 cm). Nevertheless, Embrapa Dairy Cattle (EMBRAPA, 2013) recommends entry to Italian ryegrass grazing with a height of around 20 cm and black oat 25 to 30 cm.

Leaf area index (LAI) did not differ among treatments. This help to explain why there was a

difference in input heights between treatments, demonstrating that both Barjumbo and Common ryegrass reach the 95% of light interception with a height lower than black oat.

Leaf area index are consistent with Welch (1995), which said LAI close to 4 to winter cereals allows to intercept more than 95% of incident radiation. Also in this context, Lemerle et al. (2004) state that when LAI is increased, biomass production raises until there leaf blades self-shadowing occurs, hence the average photosynthetic rate per unit leaf area decreases. As for the treatments, post-grazing residue heights did not affect LAI. Cutrim Junior et al. (2011) verified the same in Tanzania grass assessment, submitted to three frequencies of defoliation and two post-grazing residues.

To grazing interval variable, it was observed difference between treatments (Table 4), where single Common ryegrass disclosed lower grazing interval, for having presented a good daily accumulation rate (Table 1) combined with reaching animals input point with a smaller height when compared to treatments with black oat presence. The greater range of grazing was observed in Barjumbo ryegrass intercropped, probably due

to the lowest rate of daily accumulation, and by Barjumbo ryegrass has not presented a good production yield. Tonato et al. (2014) conducted a study with black oat pasture and Italian ryegrass light interception and uncovered that single Common ryegrass cutting interval was of 18 days, but when it was intercropped with black oat this range rose to 23.7 days, and finally the single oat presented 32.3 days interval.

Table 4. Input height to grazing, leaf area index and interval between grazing of two cultivars (Common and Barjumbo) of Italian ryegrass associated or not with oat black forage under two post-grazing residues, standardized to 95% light interception.

Post-grazing	Input Height (cm)				Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	27.18	33.53	28.60	33.58	30.72	5.05
Low	26.53	34.48	28.91	31.38	30.32	
Average	26.86 b	34.01 a	28.75 b	32.48 a		
Post-grazing	Leaf Area Index				Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	4.81	4.50	5.02	4.49	4.70	6.17
Low	4.53	4.75	4.68	4.97	4.73	
Average	4.67	4.62	4.85	4.73		
Post-grazing	Interval Between Grazing (days)				Average	CV (%)
	Barjumbo ryegrass		Common ryegrass			
	Single	Consorted	Single	Consorted		
High	30.00	35.00	22.03	28.90	28.98	6.48
Low	29.30	34.00	24.27	26.93	28.63	
Average	29.65 b	34.50 a	23.15 c	27.92 b		

High: output with 50% of input height; Low: output with 30% of input height.

Averages followed by different letters differ in the lower row and column statistically differ by "t" test ($p < 0.05$).

Post-grazing output times did not influence the interval between grazing even with the greatest daily accumulation rate to output time in 50% (Table 1). Cutrim Junior et al. (2011), comparing two LAI post-grazing residues (1.0 and 1.8), observed larger intervals between grazing to the lowest LAI, i.e. for treatment with lower height post-grazing.

Conclusions

Common ryegrass presents higher forage yield than Barjumbo ryegrass, even when intercropped with black oat cv. IAPAR61 in water restriction conditions, regardless of the post-grazing residue.

Barjumbo presented the same leaf blade production than Common ryegrass and small amount of stem.

The grazing input height in Barjumbo ryegrass is approximately 27 cm, while the Common ryegrass lies around 29 cm. In consortium with black oat, Barjumbo ryegrass input height is around 34 cm and of the Common cultivar is approximately 32.5 cm.

Acknowledgments

On Coordination of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), for granting master's level of scholarship to the first author.

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