UTILIZATION OF STORED CARBON PRODUCTS IN THE SPORUTING OF STEM CUTTINGS OF *BRACHIARIA MUTICA*.

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An experiment was conducted in a glass house at the University of New England, Armidael, Australia to investigate the utilization of stored carbon products in the sprouting of stem cuttings during the establishment of *Brachiaria mutica* by using the $^{14}CO2$ labelling technique.

The study revealed that total amount of ^{14}C utilized by shoots and roots during sprouting was relatively small; suggesting that a major source of dry matter for sprouting of *B. mutica* is that supplied by the current photosynthesis of leaves rather than to depend on the translocation of stored carbohydrates in the stem of the cuttings. From these results it can be deduced that carbohydrate reserves stored in the stem cuttings probably act as a significant source of energy only during initial sprouting of shoots and roots of the stem cuttings.