

B33 EFFECT OF FREQUENCY OF DEFOLIATION AND PLANT PARTS
ON DRY MATTER YIELD AND QUALITY OF
LEUCAENA LEUCOCEPHALA (LAM) DE WIT

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An experiment was conducted to investigate the effect of frequency of defoliation and plant parts on dry matter yield and quality of *Leucaena leucocephala* (Ipil-Ipil). Ipil-Ipil was harvested at 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2 and 4 months after defoliation. Leaflets were separated in one treatment, whereas leaves with twigs were separated in the other treatment. Plots were arranged in a randomized complete block design in triplicates.

Crude protein content and organic matter digestibility in leaflets (17.8% and

69.5%) were higher than that of leaves with twigs (14.3% and 59.3%). The average crude fibre content in leaves with twigs (21.1%) was greater than that of leaflets (14.3%).

No significant difference was observed in the mean dry matter yield between leaflets and leaves with twigs. According to the results, it is better to harvest Ipil-Ipil about 4 months after defoliation and separate the leaves with twigs to prepare the leaf meal.

This work was supported by Nestle Lanka Ltd.