

**B-15 : EFFECT OF POTASSIUM ON YIELD AND QUALITY OF
GUINEA "A" GRASS (*Panicum maximum* JACQ) AND STYLOSANTHES
(*Stylosanthes hamata*) IN THE MID COUNTRY OF SRI LANKA**

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An experiment was conducted to study the effect of potassium (K) fertilizer, namely O(K₀), 60(K₁), 120(K₂), 180 (K₃) and 240(K₄) kg of K₂O/ha/yr on the yield and nutritive value of Guinea 'A' (*Panicum maximum* Jacq.) and Stylosanthes (*Stylosanthes hamata*) in the mid country wet zone of Sri Lanka. Plants were harvested and the dry matter yields (Dmyd) and leaf: stem ratio were estimated whereas sub samples were taken for the analysis of crude protein (CP) and K contents

Application of K fertilizer has increased the dry matter yield and reduced the leaf:stem ratio of Guinea 'A' grass. Maximum dry matter yield of Guinea 'A' grass (41712 kg/ha/yr) was recorded with the level of K3 under studied conditions and further addition of K fertilizer caused a reduction of the yield. However, application of K did not have any effect on crude protein and K content of the grass. In the case of Stylosanthes, potassium fertilization did not have any significant effect on any of the parameters studied.