

EFFECT OF DEFOLIATION IN Lotus corniculatus L.

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Lotus is the most widely used legume in our country because it does not cause bloat and has relatively good yield and persistence under low P levels.

The difference of yields obtained with continuous and rotational grazing are greater than white clover or red clover, depending upon our climate variation and the seasons.

A trial was sown to evaluate the effect of two frequencies of defoliation, cutting the herbage each time it reaches a height of 10 or 20 cm. These cutting regimes were imposed independently during the four seasons, given rise to 16 combinations of defoliation frequency x season. As an example, Table 1 shows the results obtained for four of these treatments.

Another similar trial is actually under evaluation, with and without irrigation, in order to understand the interaction management x soil moisture content.

Table 1. Seasonal production of Lotus corniculatus cv San Gabriel (origin Uruguay) kg M.S. ha<sup>-1</sup>

	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Annual
(A) 3795		(A) 1446	(A) 1188	(A) 1033	3667
		(B) 2215	(A) 1348	(B) 1284	4847
(B) 4775		(A) 1662	(B) 599	(A) 2128	4349
		(B) 2522	(B) 1151	(B) 2518	6191
D(P ≤ 0,05)	778	258	229	382	

(A) 10 cm height

(B) 20 cm height