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VA-06 GRASS (VARISME GRASS NO. 6, ELEPHANT GRASS X PENNISETUM AMERICANUM)



VA06 grass (SuSanA Secretariat, CC-BY-2.0)

VA-06 is a hybrid of Elephant Grass and *Pennisetum americanum*. It is a fast growing grass with heights up to 3 to 7 meters. Its ecology is similar to the one of Elephant Grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*). VA-06 can be cut several times a year with yields of 200 to 400 tMM/ha. Due to its deep rooting system it is adopted to droughts and can be used for erosion protection and renaturation. It is currently predominantly cultivated for the production of silage.

SITE CONDITIONS

Heights:	0-2,000 m
Temperature tolerance:	15-45 °C
Temperature preferendum:	21-40 °C
Precipitation tolerance:	850-4,000 mm
Precipitation preferendum:	1,500-2,500 mm
Drought resistance:	yes
Tolerance to waterlogging:	low

Soil type: tolerates: little drained soils with lower fertility and salinity <10 dS/m
optimal: profound clay soil, high fertility, salinity <4 dS/m

pH: tolerates: 4.5-8.2
optimal: 5-6.5

Profundity: tolerates: 20-50 cm
optimal: >150 cm

CULTIVATION

Seeding temperature: >15 °C; in Vietnam between April and June in the rainy season.

HARVEST

Harvest methods:

First cut close to the ground, second cut 5-7 cm
First cut after 70-80 days, all subsequent cuts can be in intervalls of 30-40 days

5-7 cuts per year are possible

After 5-6 years the cultures should be replaced.

Expected yields: 35.1 tDM/ha/a

UTILIZATION

Energetic: Bioethanol
Biogas
Combustible material
Grass pellets
Charcoal briquets

Material: Paper production
Pressboard production