How to feed Mulato I

- Harvest or graze 3-4 months after establishment.
- Continue harvesting or grazing after every 6 to 8 weeks.
- One cow and a follower requires 1 acre of Mutalo per year.
- An average dairy cow requires 60-80 kg of freshly cut grass per day to yield 7-8 litres of milk.
- When mixed with legumes a cow can yield more than 10 litres of milk per day.

Benefits of growing Mulato I

- Increased farm forage production.
- Palatable and nutritious.
- Faster re-growth after cutting.
- Can be conserved as hay.
- Mulato I is hairless, soft and hence comfortable to handle.
- When planted along contours can be used as soil erosion barriers.
Introduction

- Mulatos are high breed grass varieties developed in Latin America from the African *Brachiaria* grass species.
- Mulato I can grow up to 1.0 to 1.5 m tall compared to other *Brachiaria* varieties.
- Mulato I and II are currently not affected by Napier stunt and smut diseases.
- Mulato I yields higher than Mulato II in western Kenya.

Source of planting material (seed)

- KARI Kakamega
- KARI Alupe
- KARI Kitale
- KARI Muguga South
- Divisional Livestock Extension Offices of Kakamega, Bungoma and Siaya Counties.

Where to plant Mulato I

- It does well in low to mid altitude (1200 – 1850 m above sea level) areas receiving 1000-2599 mm rainfall with short dry period.
- It requires soils of medium to high fertility with good drainage.
- Mulato I can be planted as a pure stand along contours to control soil erosion and as a source of feed.

How to plant Mulato I

- Plant on a well prepared seed bed like for other crops.
- Plant either seed or root splits.
- When using seed plant 2.0–2½ kg per acre drilled at 50 cm between the rows.
- When using root splits plant 2-3 splits per hole (40 bags of splits per acre) at spacing of 50 x 50 cm.
- Apply fertilizer at the rate of 2 soda bottle tops of DAP or TSP per hole (one 50 kg bag per acre) or two handfuls of well rotten farm yard manure per hole (4 tons FYM per acre).
- Cover the split firmly with the soil.

How to manage Mulato I

- Weed whenever weeds appear.
- Harvest the grass at a basal height of 5-10 cm above the ground.
- Continue harvesting at an interval of 6-8 weeks after first harvest.
- Apply CAN after every two cuttings at 2 bottle top per stool (1.5-2.0 bags CAN per acre) or farm yard manure at the rate of 2 handfuls per hole (4 tons per acre).