Benefits

- *Panicum* is a high yielding perennial fodder.
- It is leafy, palatable and nutritious.
- Good for hay making.


Leaflet supported and funded by KARI, MoA and MoLD with funds from World Bank through East African Agricultural productivity Project (EAAPP)

December, 2012

GROW PANICUM GRASS FOR INCREASED MILK YIELD

IN NAPIER STUNT AND SMUT DISEASES AFFECTED AREAS

More information can be obtained from:
Director KARI Box 5781-00200 Nairobi
director@kari.org
Centre Director, KARI-Kakamega
P.O. BOX 169-50100, Kakamega
karikakamega@yahoo.co.uk
DLPO & DLEOs
In: Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Vihiga and Siaya Counties
Introduction

- Panicum grass (Guinea grass) is a perennial fodder crop which can be directly grazed or cut, chopped and fed to livestock in small holder farms.
- It is leafy, palatable and high in nutritive value.
- It has a rapid re-growth after cutting.
- It is not affected by Napier stunt disease.

Where to grow Panicum

It grows in mid to high altitude areas of Kenya.

Varieties

- Giant Panicum

Source of seed

- KARI Centres
- Divisional Livestock Extension Offices
- All Agricultural Training Centres (ATCs).

How to plant

- Prepare the land well similar to maize seed bed.
- Dig holes 15-20 cm at a spacing of 50 x 50 cm.
- Use one soda bottle top of DAP/TSP or two bottle tops of SSP fertilizer per hole and mix with soil (1 bag/acre).
- Alternatively add one to two handfuls of well rotten FYM per hole (4 tons FYD/acre).
- Plant 2 to 3 panicum root splits per hole.

How to manage panicum

- Weed whenever weeds appear.
- If you wish to use herbicide then use 2-4D Ammine (72%) at 1 litre/acre, 5-7 weeks after planting.
- Topdress with 100 to 150kg of CAN in three split applications per acre per year after cutting or harvesting
- One can also topdress with farm yard manure at the rate of 3 - 4 tons/acre

How to feed

- Directly graze or cut and feed 4 - 5 months after germination.
- Maintain cutting or grazing frequency of 6 - 8 weeks.
- Conserve it as hay to feed during times of scarcity.
- A well managed panicum field can produce 5 to 7 tons DM/acre and this can sustain one dairy cow in a year.