Introduction
Tall fescue is the most used temperate perennial grass in the Argentina Humid Pampa. Tall fescue has four ecotypes: i) Mediterranean, ii) Intermediate, iii) Continental and iv) Rhizomatous which vary in seasonal growth rates and persistency strategies. In the past, in the North of Buenos Aires Province (Humid Pampa), tall fescue ecotypes have shown differences in forage accumulation and quality (Bertín et al., 1990) with intermediate defoliation frequency. **The objective of this work was to evaluate the accumulation and quality of the forage of three ecotypes of tall fescue in the first production year, under frequent defoliation.**

Results
- The Mediterranean ecotype produced less forage during all the growing season (p<0.0001).
- The Continental and Intermediate ecotypes had similar forage accumulation overall the season except in the fifth cut.
- The forage accumulation decreased as the summer progressed for all ecotypes.

Methods and Study Site
- The experiment was carried (May 16- May 17) in the NW Buenos Aires province (-33° 57’, -60° 33’).
- The soil was a Typic Argiudoll (pH=5.2; organic matter=3.1 %; extractable phosphorus=12.7 mg kg⁻¹)
- The treatments were cultivars of three ecotypes of tall fescue: (i) - Mediterranean (cv. Flecha), (ii) - Intermediate (cv. Royal Q 100) and (iii) - Continental (cv. Luján INTA).
- Defoliation frequency was stablished when thermal time was 550°±50°C degree days (base temperature=4°C) to avoid natural senescence.
- Forage accumulation was determined by cutting the central 5 m² of each plot (height=0.05 m). A dried sample was used to analyse the quality through in vitro dry matter digestibility (IVDIG), crude protein (CP), neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and NDF digestibility (NDFDIG).

Conclusions
These results highlights the influence of germplasm in both forage accumulation and its quality. Although important seasonal variations the Continental ecotype under this scheme of defoliation management showed a better performance in both production and quality than the Mediterranean ecotype.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to INTA Projects for financial assistance. PE-II42 - Mejoramiento genético de leguminosas y gramíneas forrajeras para incrementar la productividad y la sustentabilidad de los sistemas agropecuarios de la Argentina. RIST.I236 - Red de evaluación de cultivares.