

## Ubon stylo

**Scientific name:** *S. guianensis* var. *vulgaris* x var. *pauciflora* cv. Ubon

**Productivity:** Ubon stylo is a perennial stylo, that can grow into a small shrub. It produces between 13 and 18 t/ha dry matter/year in Thailand. In the wet season it averages about 10 t/ha and in the dry season about 5 t/ha.

**Crude protein levels:** 14-20% crude protein in Thailand on poor soils.

**Animal production:** Liveweight gains of 300-600 g/hd/day have been recorded. Dairy cows grazing Jarra digit grass and Ubon stylo produced 16 litres milk/cow/day in Thailand without any concentrate supplementation..

**Grazing management:** Can be either rotationally grazed or set stocked. Management depends on the farmer's experience. It prefers grazing to cut-and-carry.

**Establishment:** Broadcast sown at 6-10kg/ha. Sow the seed on to the soil surface, brush the seed with soil by using tree branches or large brooms. Bury the seed no more than 1-2 cm under the soil. It is easy to plant from rooted tillers. It needs well drained soils to grow well.

**Background:** Ubon stylo (*Stylosanthes guianensis* var. *vulgaris* x var. *pauciflora*) is a blend of four lines (GC 1463, GC 1480, GC 1517, and GC 1579) selected by Dr Bela Grof at the Embrapa Beef Cattle Research Centre, Campo Grande, Brazil in the 1990s. Seeds of these four lines were physically mixed together in order to create greater genetic diversity for durable resistance to anthracnose. Three of the components (GC 1463, GC 1517 and GC 1579) are single-plant selections made in the Philippines by Dr Grof from the hybrid population CIAT 11833 which was selected in the Colombian Llanos by Dr John Miles at CIAT. The fourth component (GC 1480) is from accession CIAT 2340, which originates from the Casanare region of

Colombia. Selection for anthracnose resistance was carried out in the Philippines and in regional trials conducted in Brazil.

In November 1999, Thailand received 20 grams of seed from Dr Grof, from which 2622 seedlings were grown and planted into a 510 m<sup>2</sup> area on the Ubon Ratchathani University farm in May 2000. Twenty-six kg of seed were harvested from this area in February 2001. This seed was used for dairy cow trials, where it was found that dairy cows grazing Ubon stylo produced high milk yields (16 kg/cow/day) without any extra feeding of concentrates.





