Grasses
*Brachiaria humidicola*

Recommended varieties:
‘Tully’
‘Yanero’

- vigorous creeping grass
- good for erosion control
- can tolerate heavy grazing
- can grow on very infertile soils
- can tolerate some waterlogging

*but*

- lower quality feed than other *Brachiaria* species

*Brachiaria humidicola* is an aggressive, low growing grass. It spreads quickly via stolons. ‘Yanero’ is more leafy than ‘Tully’ but both varieties have a lower feed quality than other *Brachiaria* species. ‘Tully’ spreads more rapidly than ‘Yanero’ and is well suited to erosion control. Seed production is frequently poor in Southeast Asia.

Being low growing both varieties are less suitable for cut-and-carry than other *Brachiaria* species, but can tolerate heavy grazing.

They will grow in a wide range of soils from very infertile, acid soils to high pH sandy soils. They grow best in the wet tropics with no or short dry season. They are tolerant of waterlogging and can survive short periods of flooding.
They should be grazed frequently during the wet season otherwise they produce a lot of stems which are unpalatable. Establishment from stolons is easy. Planting from seed is often difficult since it is slow to establish, even from good seed. Seed quality is frequently poor.

*B. humidicola* can be fed to sheep and goats in small quantities only. Feeding large quantities may cause photosensitization (see Section 3, Special Considerations).

Note: ‘Yanero’ was previously known as *Brachiaria dictyoneura* CIAT 6133.
Grasses
*Brachiaria ruziziensis*

Recommended variety:
‘Ruzi’

- good seed production
- establishes easily from seed or cuttings
- provides high quality forage

*but*

- needs high soil fertility
- poor persistence on infertile soils
- not adapted to long dry seasons

‘Ruzi’ is a leafy, medium height, stoloniferous grass which is used extensively in Thailand. It has short hairy leaves. In many areas it produces high seed yields. The seed quality and germination percentage are usually high.

It is adapted to well-drained, fertile soils in high rainfall areas. In these conditions it provides higher quality feed than other *Brachiaria* species. It is not well suited to infertile soils, poorly drained soils or areas with a long dry season.

‘Ruzi’ should never be fed to sheep, goats or young cattle (see Section 3, Special Considerations).

It can easily be planted from seeds or stolons.
1. ‘Ruzi’ grows well in fertile soils (JH)
2. It has hairy leaves (JH)
3. Seed production is high (WS)
4. ‘Ruzi’ spreads by stolons (JH)
5. It does not grow well in the dry season (JH)
Grasses

_Panicum maximum_

Recommended variety:
‘Si Muang’

- tall grass suitable for cutting
- suited to more fertile soils
- produces high quality feed

*but*

- must be fertilised regularly
- becomes stemmy if not cut frequently
- not suited to long dry seasons

‘Si Muang’ is a tall grass suitable for cutting which can also be lightly grazed. It produces high quality feed if grown in fertile soils. It has been selected by the Department of Livestock Development in Thailand because it is leafier and has broader adaptation than other varieties of _Panicum maximum_.

It is adapted to areas with a short or no dry season although it can survive in areas with long dry seasons. It needs high soil fertility; manure or fertiliser needs to be applied to maintain good growth. ‘Si Muang’ is best suited to well drained, fertile soils but will survive on moderately fertile soils. It does not tolerate waterlogging.
'Si Muang' is known for its fast regrowth after cutting. It must be cut frequently, otherwise it quickly produces hard, unpalatable flowering stems.

It can easily be established from rooted cuttings or seed. Seed yield of 'Si Muang' is high in many areas and seed quality is better than earlier *P. maximum* varieties.

Note:
Another promising variety, 'Tobiata' (released in Brazil; CIAT 6299), is taller and has broader leaves than 'Si Muang'. 'Tobiata' has hard hairs on the base of stems which can irritate skin during cutting.