

Grow Brachiaria grass for more Milk and Meat

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Introduction

Brachiaria is a perennial, deep rooted grass and is widely grown in the tropics for livestock feeds. Five cultivars are suitable for cultivation in different agro-ecological zones of Kenya. These grasses are:

- *Brachiaria decumbens* cv. Basilisk
- *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. Xaraes
- *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. MG-4
- *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. Piata
- *Brachiaria hybrid* cv. Mulato II (suitable for coastal region)

Planting Brachiaria grass

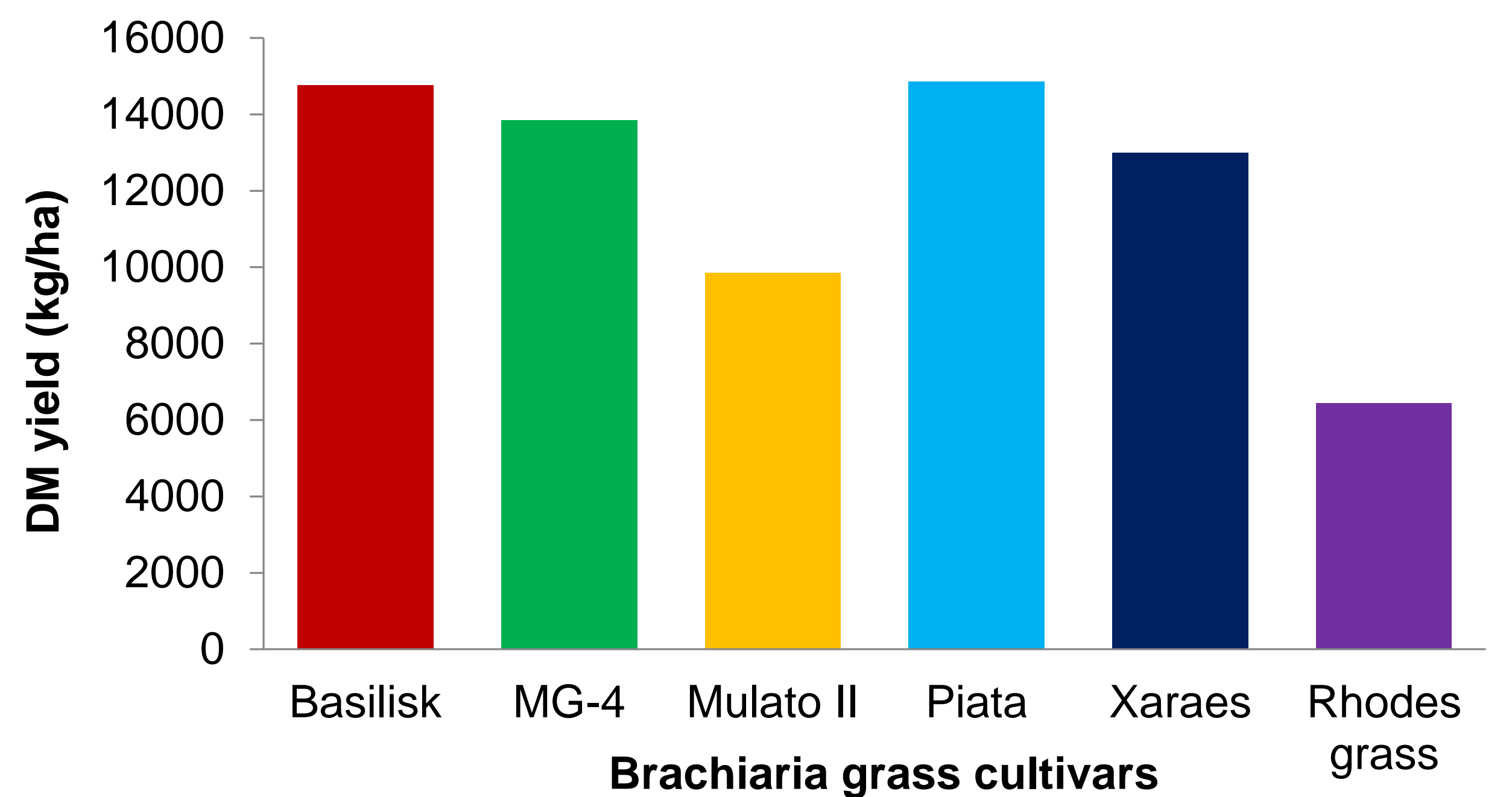
Plant Brachiaria grass in a well prepared seed bed following the recommended agronomic practice.



Young seedlings of Brachiaria grass

Dry matter yield

Brachiaria produce higher dry matter than Rhodes grass.



Dry matter yield of Brachiaria grasses compared with Rhodes grass

Nutritive quality

Brachiaria grass is more nutritious than Rhodes grass.

Crude protein (CP) and digestibility of Brachiaria grasses compared with Rhodes grass

Grass cultivars	CP range (%)	Digestibility (%)
<i>Brachiaria brizantha</i> cv. MG-4	11 -14	48 - 64
<i>B. decumbens</i> cv. Basilisk	8 -14	54 - 65
<i>B. hybrid</i> cv. Mulato II	11 - 16	58 - 65
<i>B. brizantha</i> cv. Piata	9 - 14	52 - 67
<i>B. brizantha</i> cv. Xaraes	9 - 15	56 - 62
Rhodes grass	7 -10	45 - 58

How to feed Brachiaria grass

Brachiaria grass can be fed in cut-and-carry system or grazed and can be conserved as hay or made into silage for dry season feeding.



Brachiaria grass for cut-and carry



Brachiaria grass hay for baling



Cattle grazing on *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. Xaraes

Acknowledgments

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