

**THE INFLUENCE OF DEFOLIATION ON DWAFI ELEPHANT
(*Pennisetum purpureum* CV. Mott) GRASS PRODUCTION**

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ABSTRACT *)

The objective of research was to know the influence of defoliation interval on Dwarf Elephant (*Pennisetum purpureum* cv. Mott) Grass production. This research was conducted from 15 March 2017 to 25 May 2017 in the Teaching Farm Unit, Agroindustry Faculty, University of Mercu Buana Yogyakarta at Gunungbulu, Argorejo, Sedayu, Bantul and then continued in Animal Production Laboratory University of Mercu Buana Yogyakarta. The research was designed by Randomized Block Design consisting of 4 treatments and 3 blocks as replication. There were P1 : 3 weeks cutting interval, P2 : 4 weeks cutting interval, P3 : 5 weeks cutting interval, P4 : 6 weeks cutting interval. The observed variables were produced growth and production components such as increased plant height (cm), leaf number (leaf), poll number (polls), wet and dried weight productivity (ton/ha/year). Data was analyzed by ANOVA, if there were significant differences between the treatments, there will be continued by Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT). The research results showed that the six-week cutting interval produced the best growth and production components such as increased plant height 73,54 cm, leaf number 9,64 leaf, poll number 9,79 polls, wet weight 535,50 ton/ha/year and dried weight 78,28 ton/ha/year. It was concluded that 6 weeks cutting interval is the best treatment.

Key words : Dwarf elephant grass, productivity, cutting interval

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