

2020 STOKES BAY SMALL PLOT FERTILISER TRIAL

Background

The BioAg fertiliser trial was established in 2019. The trial has 6 treatments with 4 replications and compares various BioAg products and rates against an annual application of single super. The biomass is measured by mowing with a push behind mower and weighing the catchings. The site was not grazed.

The site is located on W & J Stantons at Stokes Bay on a sandy soil. The pasture is a perennial veldt grass and serradella with a light smattering of capeweed and annual ryegrass. The site experienced a hot burn in January 2020 with the treatments closest to the scrub line suffering the most damage to the pasture base.

Results

Due to the fire and the upright podding nature of serradella it was decided to allow the serradella to set seed in spring 2020. Resultantly, only 2 cuts were taken during the growing season. Veldt and serradella typically hit their straps in spring and there was estimated to have been an extra 4t DM/ha grown between September and November. The trial will run for another two years.

Table 1. Means and standard errors of each treatment at both harvest times. Units are kg/ha

Treatment	23-Jul 20	15-Sep 20	Cumulative
Control (A)	1184±95	2190±378	3374±456
275kg Superb – biennial (B)	1202±95	2705±378	3907±456
200kg PhosS10 – biennial (C)	1222±95	2253±378	3475±456
125kg Single – annual (D)	1022±95	1610±378	2632±456
135kg Superb – annual (E)	1212±95	2626±378	3838±456
275kg Superb+lime+Trace Elements –biennial (F)	1236±95	2765±378	4001±456

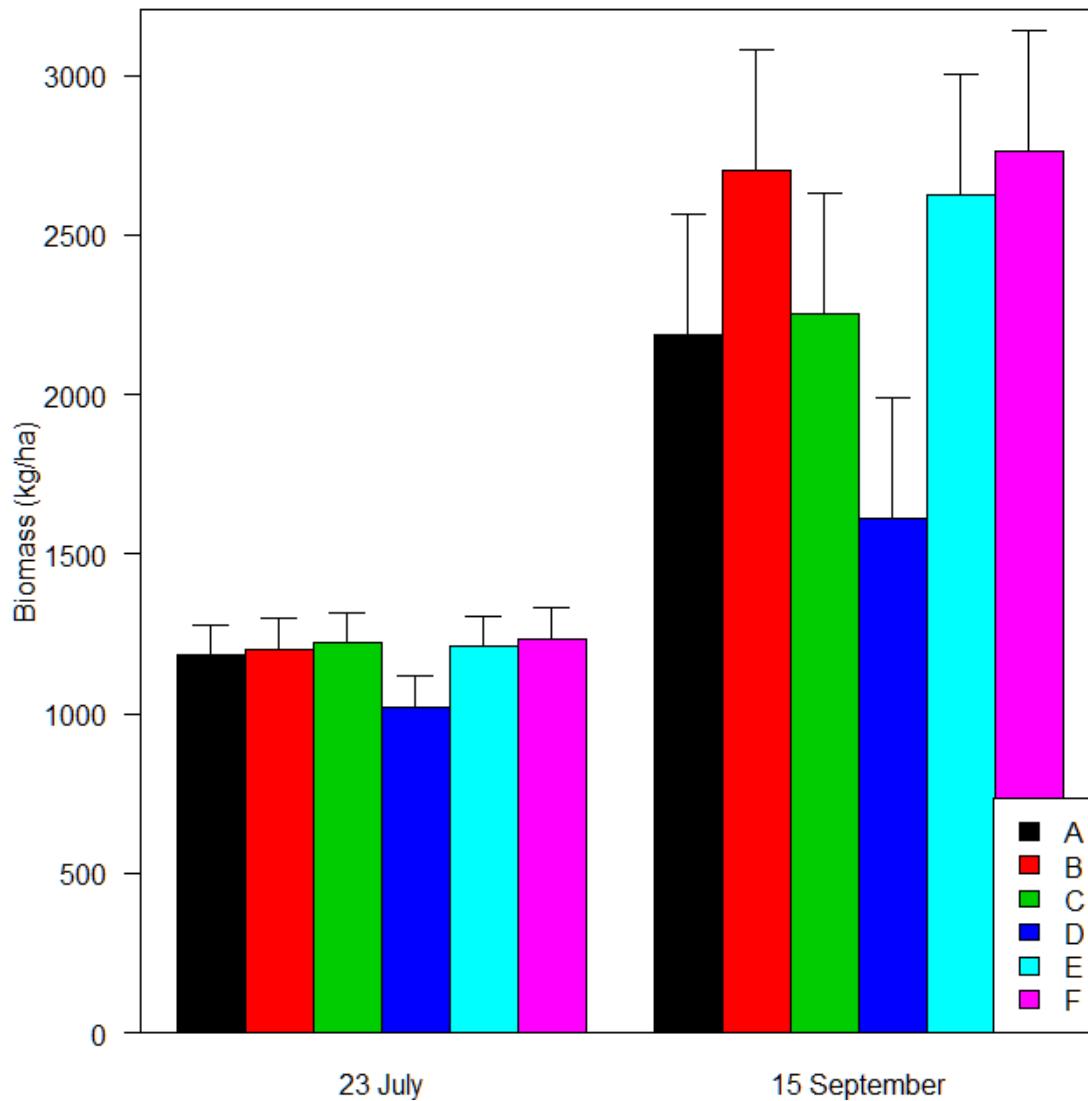


Figure 1 Biomass production for each treatment at each sampling date from Stokes Bay trial. Error bars are standard errors. Refer to codes in Table 1 to identify treatments.

Take home messages

- There was no significant difference on a dry matter basis between all fertilizer products. Nor was there an effect of the cumulative amount over the four harvest times.
- There was high variability across the site owing to the effect of the January bushfire.
- There was a hint in the data that plots receiving treatment D (single super) were the least productive at both the Parndana and the Stokes Bay trials.

Funding/sponsors

BioAg

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