

# LITERATURE REVIEW



## Tropical grasses used in haylage production: An integrative review

*Pastos tropicales utilizados en la producción de henolage: Una revisión integradora*

*Gramíneas tropicais utilizadas na produção de pre-secado: Uma revisão integrativa*

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28 **Abstract**

29 **Background:** Haylage is a way of preserving forage with good nutritional value, consisting of  
30 the partial removal of water from the plant through the wilting technique. **Objective:** To  
31 identify the main tropical grasses used in haylage production, we developed an integrative  
32 review. **Methods:** Through the PVO mnemonic strategy, which consists of population (P):  
33 tropical forage grasses, variables (V): haylage production, and outcome (O): qualitative  
34 parameters, we raised the following question: “What are the main tropical forage grasses used  
35 in haylage production?” Papers were selected from three different databases: SCOPUS  
36 (Elsevier), Web of Science, and Science Direct. **Results:** The search identified 1,049 articles,  
37 but only 10 were considered suitable and included for data extraction. Among the grasses used,  
38 50% were of *Cynodon* spp., 30% of *Panicum maximum*, 10% of *Festuca rubr*, 10% of *Dactylis*  
39 *glomerata*, and 10% of *Trisetum flavescens*. **Conclusion:** We conclude that the main forage  
40 grasses used in pre-dried silage production belong to the genera *Cynodon* spp. and *Panicum*  
41 spp., highlighting Tifton-85 grass and Tanzania grass, respectively.

42 **Keywords:** *Conservation; forage; grass; haylage; nutritional characteristics; pre-dried*  
43 *silage; review; tropical grasses; wilting.*

44  
45 **Resumen**

46 **Antecedentes:** henolaje es una forma de preservación de forraje con buen valor nutritivo, que  
47 consiste en una retirada parcial de agua de la planta a través de la técnica de emurchecimiento.

48 **Objetivo:** Para identificar las principales gramíneas tropicales utilizadas en la producción  
49 presecada, desarrollamos una revisión integradora. **Métodos:** A través de la estrategia  
50 mnemotécnica PVO, que consta de población (P): pastos forrajeros tropicales; variables (V):  
51 producción de presecado, resultados (O): parámetros cualitativos, planteando la siguiente  
52 interrogante: “Cuáles son las principales gramíneas forrajeras tropicales utilizadas en la  
53 producción de henolaje?”. Los artículos se seleccionaron de tres bases de datos diferentes,  
54 SCOPUS (Elsevier), Web of Science y Science Direct. **Resultados:** La búsqueda identificó  
55 1.049 artículos, pero sólo 10 se consideraron adecuados e incluidos para la extracción de datos.  
56 Entre las gramíneas utilizadas, el 50% fueron del género *Cynodon* spp., el 30% cultivares de  
57 *Panicum máximo*, el 10% cultivares de *Festuca rubr*, el 10% cultivares del género *Dactylis*  
58 *glomerata* y el 10% cultivar *Trisetum flavescens*. **Conclusão:** Se concluye que las principales  
59 gramíneas forrajeras utilizadas en la producción presecada pertenecen al género *Cynodon* spp.  
60 y *Panicum* spp., destacando el pasto Tifton 85 y el pasto Tanzania, respectivamente.

61 **Palabras clave:** *Características nutricionales; conservación; forraje; henolage; marchitez;*  
62 *pasto; pastos tropicales; revisión.*

63

#### 64 **Resumo**

65 **Antecedentes:** O pré-secado é uma forma de preservação de forragem com bom valor nutritivo,  
66 que consiste na retirada parcial de água da planta através da técnica de emurchecimento.

67 **Objetivo:** Identificar as principais gramíneas tropicais utilizadas na produção de pré-secado,  
68 desenvolvemos uma revisão integrativa. **Métodos:** Através da estratégia mnemônica PVO, em  
69 que consiste em população (P): gramíneas forrageiras tropicais; variáveis (V): produção de pré-  
70 secado, resultados (O): parâmetros qualitativos, levantando a seguinte questão: “Quais são as  
71 principais gramíneas forrageiras tropicais utilizadas na produção dos pré-secados?”. Foram  
72 selecionados artigos em três bases de dados diferentes, SCOPUS (Elsevier), Web of Science e  
73 Science Direct. **Resultados:** A busca identificou 1.049 artigos, mas apenas 10 foram  
74 considerados aptos e incluídos para extração de dados. Entre as gramíneas utilizadas 50% eram  
75 do gênero *Cynodon* spp., 30% cultivares de *Panicum maximum*, 10% cultivares de *Festuca*  
76 *rubr*, e 10% gênero *Dactylis glomerata*, 10% cultivar *Trisetum flavescens*.  
77 **Conclusão:** Concluimos que as principais gramíneas forrageiras utilizadas na produção de pré-  
78 secado pertencem aos gêneros *Cynodon* spp. e *Panicum* spp., destacando-se o capim-tifton 85  
79 e o capim-tanzânia, respectivamente.

80 **Palavras-chave:** *Características nutricionais; capim; conservação; forragem; gramíneas*  
81 *tropicais; haylage; murchando; pré-secado; revisão.*

82

#### 83 **Introduction**

84 Feeding is one of the most important points within the animal production system, and it is  
85 essential to search for low-cost alternatives applicable to the field, which maximize animal  
86 performance. With seasonality throughout the year, the forage supply to ruminants is limited.  
87 This scenario leads to a drop in animal productivity and one of the alternatives found to  
88 overcome productive losses during this dry period is the conservation of forage (Fluck *et al.*,  
89 2018).

90 Haylage (pre-dried silage) is a way of preserving forage with good nutritional value, consisting  
91 of the partial removal of water from the plant through the wilting technique, with levels between  
92 400 and 600 g/kg DM (Edvan *et al.*, 2023). The technique aims to control the fermentation

93 process during conservation and reduce undesirable secondary fermentations (Horst *et al.*,  
94 2016).

95 The choice of forage species for making haylage depends on the region's climatic conditions,  
96 soil fertility, applied technology, nutritional requirements of the animals, and the economics of  
97 the process. Pre-dried grasses or legumes from temperate climates have lower contents and  
98 better quality of the fibrous fraction in their composition when compared to pre-dried tropical  
99 forages (Jimenez Filho *et al.*, 2013).

100 The microbiome present in forage is favorable for the growth of bacteria that produce desirable  
101 products in anaerobic fermentation, contributing to a balanced pH, and maintaining the  
102 nutritional quality and stability of the product (Costa *et al.*, 2019). In European countries, pre-  
103 dried feed is widely used in horse feeding (Muller, 2011). In Brazil, haylage use is more evident  
104 in feeding ruminants, as it is possible to store surplus forage and later use it to feed these animals  
105 during periods of scarcity (Pereira, 2007).

106 Research comparing two forage preservation techniques, haying, and pre-drying, showed  
107 positive results regarding the effectiveness of pre-drying as a means of preserving forage quality  
108 even in colder environments (Borreani *et al.*, 2007). However, to bring a broader view of the  
109 results available through primary studies extracted from the database and to provide information  
110 and suggestions for future research, the objective was, through an integrative review, to identify  
111 the main tropical forage grasses used in haylage production.

112

## 113 **Methods**

114 The present study consists of an integrative review that aims to generate a broader view of the  
115 main grasses used in the pre-drying conservation technique. Currently, this is the broadest  
116 method of review and research to define current knowledge on a specific topic.

117

### 118 *Preparation of the protocol and guiding question*

119 The integrative review protocol was developed so that the research carried out has a high-  
120 standard scientific basis, extracting correct data using a search strategy that meets the objective  
121 presented. To ensure that the terms used for the search were non-random, an analysis was made  
122 of each scientific article published on the topic under study. To elaborate on the guiding  
123 question of this review, the PVO mnemonic strategy was adopted, which consists of population  
124 (P) tropical forage grasses, variables (V) haylage production, and outcome (O) were qualitative

125 parameters. Raising the following question: “What are the main tropical forage grasses used  
126 in haylage production?”

127

#### 128 Database search

129 The selected scientific papers were searched up to September 8, 2023, in three databases that  
130 presented studies that answered the guiding question: SCOPUS (Elsevier), Web of Science, and  
131 Science Direct. The CAPES journal portal was used to access the database through the Federal  
132 University of Piau  (UFPI, Brazil). Table 1 shows the terms used in the search and their  
133 synonyms.

134 The articles were available in electronic databases, so articles that answered the guiding  
135 question were selected. Studies were considered important when (1) they contained primary  
136 research published in the format of a scientific article, (2) they included the use of forage grasses  
137 in the production of pre-dried silage, (3) and the chemical and fermentative characteristics of  
138 the pre-dried grass. Duplicate articles in the same database and other databases were considered  
139 only once. Articles in letter forms to the editor, abstracts, theses and dissertations, books or  
140 book chapters, lectures, other reviews, and correspondence were discarded. Articles that  
141 contained silage and other forms of conservation that were not pre-dried, as well as fresh forage  
142 that were not tropical grasses were excluded.

143

144 **Table 1.** Terms used in a unicross and high sensitivity search to study the main tropical forage  
145 grasses used in the production of haylage crops.

	Keywords
Population (P)	“ <b>Tropical forage grasses</b> ” OR “Forage crops” OR “Crops forage” OR “Fodder” OR “Grass” OR “Grasses” OR “Forage grasses” OR “Grasses forage” OR “Pasture” OR “Tropical pasture” OR “Pasture tropical” OR “Tropical” OR “Forages” OR “Forage” OR “Lawn” OR “ <i>Brachiaria</i> ” OR “ <i>Urochloa</i> ” OR “ <i>Panicum</i> ” OR “ <i>Megathyrus</i> ” OR “ <i>Cynodon</i> ” OR “ <i>Pennisetum</i> ” OR “Foragers” OR “Tropical forages” OR “Forages tropical” OR “Grass tropical” OR “Tropical grass” OR “Guinea grass” OR “ <i>Megathyrus maximus</i> ” OR “ <i>Andrapogon gayanus</i> ”
Variables (V)	“ <b>Haylage</b> ” OR “Production haylage” OR “Pre dry forages” OR “confection haylage” OR “fodder pre dry”
Outcome (O)	“ <b>Qualitative parameters</b> ” OR “pH” OR “N-NH <sub>3</sub> ” OR “ammonial nitrogen” OR “aerobic stability” OR “ethanol content and organic acids” OR “microbiological determination” OR “chemical composition” OR “determination of dry matter” OR “crude protein”

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OR “ether extract” OR “dry matter mineral” OR “detergent fiber neutral” OR “acid detergent Fiber OR “total soluble carbohydrates” OR “*In vitro* ruminal degradability” OR “gas production” OR “fermentation parameters”

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146

147 *Data selection and collection*

148 In the first data collection, articles were evaluated by individually reading the title and  
149 summary, then the exclusion criteria were used together with the research objective. In the  
150 second stage, the chosen articles were read in full, undergoing a new screening and selecting  
151 those corresponding to the research. A form was designed to extract data for study purposes,  
152 including information about the publication (article title, indexed databases, authors, country,  
153 language, and year of publication), name of the scientific journal, methodological aspects of  
154 the study (description of the experiment including treatments and experimental period, analyzed  
155 variables, and results) the most used grasses in pre-drying, study limitations and conclusions.

156

157 *Assessment of included studies*

158 The studies were classified according to their level of evidence, prepared (JBI level of evidence)  
159 and those that presented level 2 support were added only to guarantee studies with greater  
160 evidence. The JBI classifies research according to its level of evidence into: 1) experimental  
161 studies; 2) quasi-experimental studies; 3) observational and analytical studies; 4) observational  
162 and descriptive studies; and 5) expert opinion. To estimate the methodological quality used in  
163 the studies, the CASP instrument was used for the type of methodological structure (available  
164 at: <https://casp-uk.net/casp-tools-checklists/>) this includes only those that met the criteria  
165 according to the research method presented in each study.

166

167 **Results**

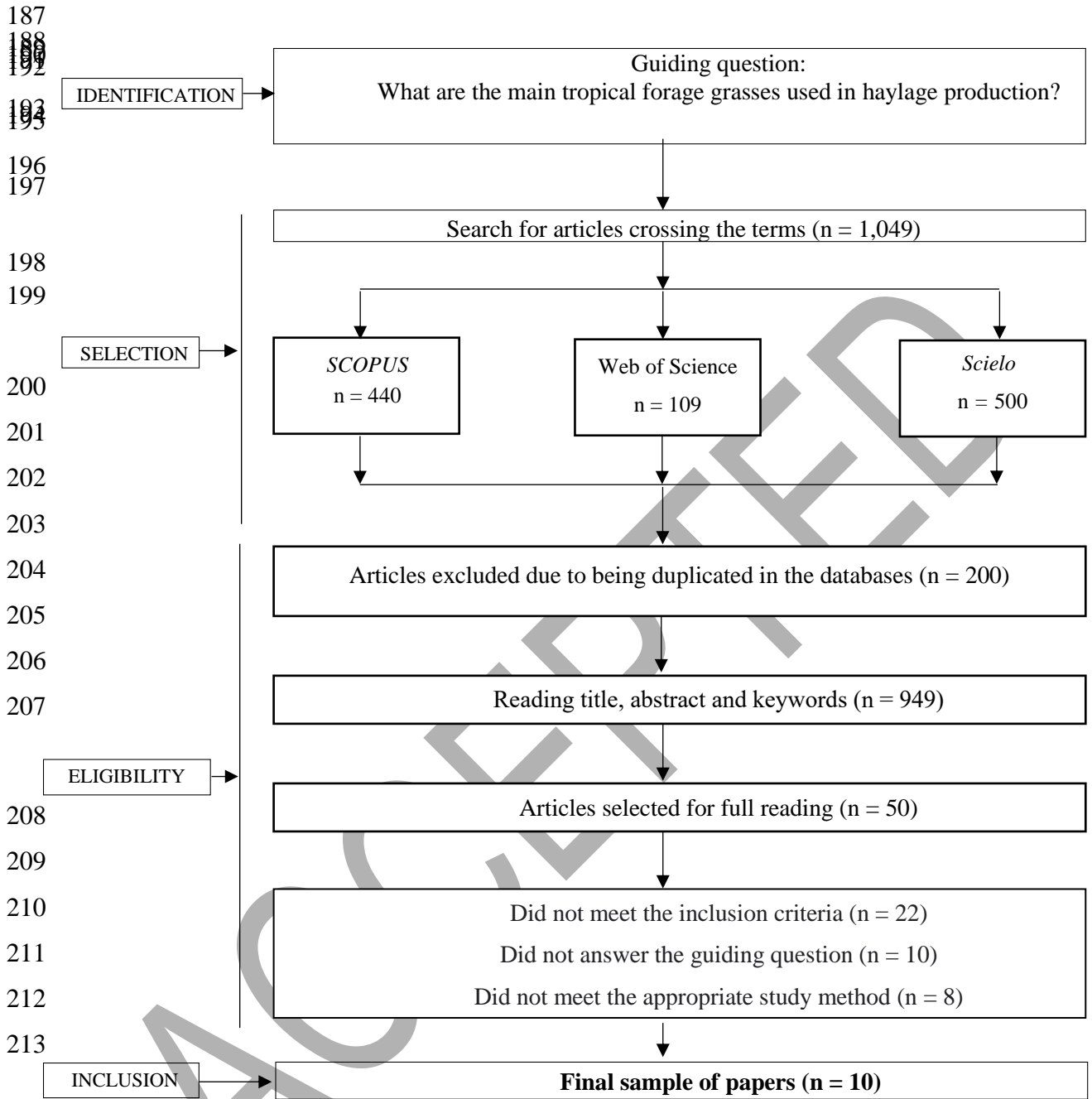
168 Overall, 1,049 studies were identified, including 1,000 scientific articles. Of this total, 50  
169 articles were identified as data of possible interest. After complete reading, and searching for  
170 articles that answered the guiding question, ten publications were considered suitable and  
171 included due to the solidity of the methodology for data extraction (Figure 1). All results  
172 presented level 1 evidence. The selected articles involve publications dated from 2006 to 2023,  
173 40% of which were published in the last 5 years. The studies used were carried out in Brazil  
174 (8), Italy (1), and the United States of America (1), published in English and Portuguese.

175 Among the selected studies, there was a variation in the duration of the experiments, ranging  
176 from 3 months to 1 year.

177 Among the forage grasses most used in haylage production, we can highlight the genera  
178 *Cynodon* spp. (60%) and *Panicum* spp. (30%) (Table 2). The pre-dried chemical composition  
179 parameters analyzed most frequently in studies were dry matter (DM, 100%), crude protein  
180 (CP, 100%), neutral detergent fiber (NDF, 100%), acid detergent fiber (FDA, 90%), mineral  
181 matter (MM, 60%), lignin (LIG, 50%), hemicellulose (HEM, 60%), organic matter (MO, 60%),  
182 ether extract (EE, 50%), total carbohydrates (CHOT, 30%) and cellulose (CEL, 10%) (Table  
183 3). Fermentative parameters such as pH, soluble carbohydrates (SC), ammonia nitrogen (N-  
184 NH<sub>3</sub>), lactic acid, acetic acid, butyric acid, and aerobic stability were present in 80, 40, 50, 40,  
185 50, 40, 30% of the studies, respectively (Table 2 and 4).

186

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215 **Figure 1.** Flowchart of the final sampling selection method for the integrative review

216  
217  
218



219 **Table 2.** Main tropical forage grasses used in haylage production.

Author/year	Country	Duration	Common name	Scientific name	Treatments	Level of evidence
Souza <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Brazil	90 days	Tifton-85 grass	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	The isonitrogenous diets were formulated to contain approximately 12% CP and a roughage: concentrate ratio of 60:40. As a source of roughage, pre-dried Tifton-85 grass and sorghum silage from the forage hybrid AG 2002 (Agroceres) were used in proportions 100:0, 68:32, 34:66 and 0:100, respectively, based on the MS.	1
Gomes <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Brazil	65 days	Tifton-85 grass	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	1 - chopped Elephant grass ( <i>Pennisetum purpureum</i> Schum. cv. Cameron), of medium maturity, 2 - pre-dried Tifton-85 grass ( <i>Cynodon</i> spp.), 3 - Signal grass hay ( <i>Brachiaria decumbens</i> Stapf), 4 - signal grass hay and concentrate 1 supplied at 0.5% BW, and 5 - signal grass hay and concentrate 2 supplied at 1% BW.	1
Borreani <i>et al.</i> (2007)	Italy	1 year	Orchardgrass Red fescue Yellow oats	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> <i>Festuca rubra</i> <i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Natural meadow hay harvested late with the addition of 5.1 kg of DM per cow and, pre-dried from natural meadow with early cut 3.5 kg of DM of concentrate/cow.	1
Pereira <i>et al.</i> (2007)	Brazil	90 days	Tifton-85 grass	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	Pre-dried Tifton 85 grass ( <i>Cynodon</i> spp.) + Concentrate (corn meal and ground soybeans) in a 60:40 ratio.	1

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Arriola <i>et al.</i> (2015)	Florida (USA)	112 days	Bermuda grass	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	Use of four inoculants in pre-dried Tifton 85 bermudagrass (Buchneri 500 inoculant, Biotal Plus II inoculant, Silage II inoculant, Silo King inoculant).	1
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221 **Table 2 cont.** Main tropical forage grasses used in haylage production.

Guimarães <i>et al.</i> (2016)	Brazil	86 days	Tifton-85 grass	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	The Tifton-85 grass ( <i>Cynodon</i> spp.) was cut after 30 days of growth to produce haylage and remained in the field until reaching 70% dry matter (DM). Silobac® biological additive was added (2g of product in 2L of water to inoculate each ton of forage destined for silage), totaling 56 days of storage.	1
Costa <i>et al.</i> (2019)	Brazil	56 days	Tifton-85 grass	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	The evaluated treatments consisted of storage times of 1, 3, 7, 14, 28 and 56 days of pre-dried Tifton-85 grass (with sprinkled Silobac® biological additive).	1
Galeano <i>et al.</i> (2022)	Brazil	90 days	Tamani grass	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Monoculture of Tamani grass, Tamani grass + <i>Crotalaria ochroleuca</i> , Tamani grass + cowpea and Tamani grass + soybeans and Tamani grass + pigeon peas.	1
Silva <i>et al.</i> (2023)	Brazil	60 days	Tanzania grass	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Plastic films of different thicknesses were tested on the Tanzania grass wrap, 27 µm polyethylene plastic film and three PVC films, which were 10 µm, 11 µm and 13 µm.	1

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Edvan <i>et al.</i> (2023)	Brazil	90 days	Tanzania grass	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Four groups of pre-dried Tanzania grass that varied in DM content as follows: fresh plant (not dehydrated), 400, 500 and 600 g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM (dehydrated in the field until reaching DM content of treatment).	1
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224 **Table 3.** Chemical characteristics (g/kg DM) of grasses used for haylage production.

Author/year	Species	DM (g/Kg de Fresh matter)	CP	SC	EE	Ash	NDF	ADF	CEL	HEM	LIG	OM
Souza <i>et al.</i> (2006)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	536.5	59.9	85.71	18.5	-	783.7	446.7	-	337.0	75.1	935.6
Gomes <i>et al.</i> (2006)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	467.1	169.7	71.41	28.9	87.3	642.2	319.8	-	-	58.0	912.7
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>											
	<i>Festuca rubr</i>											
Borreani <i>et al.</i> (2007)	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	522.0	107.0	-	21.0	110	570.0	386.0	-	-	59.0	636
Pereira <i>et al.</i> (2007)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	542.5	57.7	85.23	13.5	-	792.8	444.4	-	348.4	77.8	923.5
Arriola <i>et al.</i> (2015)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	536.5	188.8	-	-	-	691.0	321.0	-	352	-	-
Guimarães <i>et al.</i> (2016)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	947.1	127.1	-	-	91.5	547.7	224.8	-	3229	-	-
Costa <i>et al.</i> (2019)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	622.8	173.3	-	28.7	-	723.3	320.4	-	402.9	30.2	-
Galeano <i>et al.</i> (2022)	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	669.6	57.4	-	-	86.8	700.8	310.5	239.2	394.8	77.6	-
Silva <i>et al.</i> (2023)	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	655.0	140.9	-	-	64.8	857.4	493.3	-	-	-	935.1
Edvan <i>et al.</i> (2023)	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	581.6	99.9	45.4	-	71.0	653.9	-	-	-	-	943.6

225 DM – dry matter; CP – crude protein; EE – ether extract; Ash – mineral matter; NDF –neutral detergent fiber; ADF – acid detergent fiber; CEL – cellulose;

226 HEM – hemicellulose; LIG – lignin; OM - organic matter; SC - soluble carbohydrates.

227

228

229 **Table 4.** Fermentative parameters of the main grasses used for haylage production, organic acids (g/kg DM), pH, aerobic stability

Author/year	Species	pH	N-NH <sub>3</sub>	Lactic acid	Acetic Acid	Butyric acid	Propionic acid	Microbiology	Break in aerobic stability
Souza <i>et al.</i> (2006)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	4.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gomes <i>et al.</i> (2006)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Borreani <i>et al.</i> (2007)	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	5.13	50.6	11.8	6.4	0.8	-	-	-
	<i>Festuca rubra</i>								
	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>								
Pereira <i>et al.</i> (2007)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	4.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arriola <i>et al.</i> (2015)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	5.37	-	10.4	2.8	-	-	-	yes
Guimarães <i>et al.</i> (2016)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costa <i>et al.</i> (2019)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.	4.70	22.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Galeano <i>et al.</i> (2022)	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	4.53	103.6	22.4	28.9	1.3	2.7	-	-
Silva <i>et al.</i> (2023)	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	5.83	8.5	26.30	1.40	1.0	1.50	5.40 UFC g <sup>-1</sup>	no
Edvan <i>et al.</i> (2023)	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	6.37	3.5	-	48.9	3.2	4.1	5.95 UFC g <sup>-1</sup>	no

230

## 231 Discussion

232 The studies verified in this review present a high degree of confidence due to the planning and  
233 scientific search criteria. In addition, all stages undergo analysis by two reviewers, thus ensuring  
234 the reliability of the data presented and certifying the inclusion of studies that do not lead to  
235 review. After reading the full texts, most of the studies that were excluded by the reviewers  
236 were due to the use of conservation techniques with grasses other than pre-drying. Studies used  
237 pre-dried Tifton grass 85 associated with sorghum silage supplied together in cattle feed,  
238 however, research involving the use of these feeds as a source of roughage is limited, including  
239 their evaluation and the animal's physiological response to consume this feed (Pereira *et al.*,  
240 2007).

241 Other studies were excluded because they presented legumes as a source of forage for haylage  
242 production. The first studies with pre-drying in Brazil date back to 2006, as a way of conserving  
243 forage instead of traditional silage to feed beef cattle (Souza *et al.*, 2006). There was a variation  
244 in the duration of published experiments, however, 80% of the studies were carried out within  
245 three months and 20% within a year. Studies using the pre-drying conservation technique tend  
246 to last 90 to 120 days, as most pastures are already pre-established and at the cutting point for  
247 making bales.

248 The main forage grasses used in haylage production were Tifton-85 (*Cynodon* spp.) and  
249 Tanzania (*Panicum maximum*). These grasses showed great production potential and are widely  
250 used in direct grazing, with high adaptive capacity to tropical regions around the world and with  
251 potential for hay and haylage production (Edvan *et al.*, 2023). Cultivars of the *Cynodon* genus  
252 gained prominence in this study probably because they have good productivity and high  
253 nutritional value, high DM production, and fast growth rate, in addition to thin culms (Souza *et*  
254 *al.*, 2006).

255 Forage grasses of the genus *Brachiaria* are the most used in Brazil, occupying approximately  
256 85% of cultivated pasture areas. Of this total, marandu grass occupies 50% and is considered  
257 an excellent option for forming pastures (Medica *et al.*, 2016). However, cultivars such as  
258 Marandu grass (*Brachiaria brizantha*) did not appear in the list of tropical grasses used in pre-  
259 dried preparation, probably because it is a grass with medium-low size characteristics not  
260 commonly used for conservation but rather for direct grazing (Macedo, 2006).

261 Of the treatments applied in the research, 70% used additives on pre-dried grasses, which  
262 included bacterial inoculants or concentrates. The works that did not contain any additives also

263 had relatively satisfactory results, when compared to pre-dried Tifton 85 and other roughage,  
264 the pre-dried presented a higher apparent digestibility (Gomes *et al.*, 2006). Silva *et al.* (2023)  
265 observed that pre-dried Tanzania grass wrapped in 13-micron thick polyethylene film had the  
266 lowest population of enterobacteria, making it safer for use in animal feed.  
267 Most of the experiments took place in Brazil (80%), as the country has regions characterized  
268 by irregular rainfall, which is concentrated in a short period of the year (Schmidt *et al.*, 2018),  
269 causing seasonality in forage production requiring the use of conservation techniques.  
270 Pre-drying (Haylage) constitutes an alternative for the conservation of forage plants used to  
271 feed ruminants, the effects linked to chemical composition, consumption, and animal  
272 performance are variables that can be influenced by the production system, forage species, and  
273 animals, requiring some care when recommending this practice (Edvan *et al.*, 2023). The lack  
274 of standardization in experimental methodologies continues to be a challenge for the  
275 conservation and availability of production of good nutritional and microbiological quality.  
276 Methodological adaptations or full use of methodology for evaluating silages were commonly  
277 used in the studies analyzed, especially concerning fermentative parameters.

278

### 279 **Limitations and proposals for future research**

280 One of the limitations of this integrative review is that although the pre-drying technique has  
281 been used for a long time, the articles found were limited, thus showing that more studies are  
282 needed, especially on how this conservation method affects ruminant nutrition. It is also notable  
283 that most of the selected studies did not provide all the data on fermentative parameters, nor  
284 was there a standardization of the experimental units, thus suggesting a standardization of the  
285 data presented for future studies.

286 In this sense, to improve the quality of tropical grasses preserved in pre-dried form, research  
287 involving the use of additives has been expanding. Studies using fibrolytic enzymes have been  
288 highlighted in ruminant nutrition. The use of enzymes in animal feed is biotechnology that  
289 became part of the supplementation of these animals in terms of weight gain, and this was  
290 confirmed by Burroughs in 1960. These enzymes are extracted from fungi or bacteria, which  
291 act in conjunction with enzymes produced by rumen microorganisms (Martins *et al.*, 2007).  
292 Fibrolytic enzymes are used in ensilage to increase the efficiency of the fermentation process,  
293 thus collaborating with the action of desirable microorganisms, as in the case of bacteria that  
294 produce lactic acid (Muck and Kung Jr., 1997; Kung Jr., 2000). Consequently, Loures *et al.*



295 (2005), highlighted the main fibrolytic enzymes used, such as hemicellulases, cellulases,  
296 pectinases, and xylanases, act to make simple sugars available as a source of nutrients for  
297 fermenting bacteria. The use of fibrolytic enzymes that are produced by cultures of filamentous  
298 fungi in ruminant feed has shown positive results, with an increase in the digestibility of dry  
299 matter and neutral detergent fiber, in milk production and also in the fat content of milk  
300 (Schingoethe *et al.*, 1999).

301 The addition of fibrolytic enzymes to corn silage and Tifton hay favored an increase in the  
302 activity of  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase in the rumen fluid in the early stages of incubation, and the  
303 average enzymatic activity of  $\beta$ -1,4- Endoglucanase in the ruminal fluid was higher in diets  
304 containing corn silage (Martins *et al.*, 2006). The addition of xylanase increased cellulose  
305 degradation and tended to increase ADF degradation. The use of multiple enzymes (cellulase,  
306 xylanase, and glucose) increased the ruminal degradation of NDF and DM, without affecting  
307 the other fractions of the feed (Antonio *et al.*, 2018).

308 Because of the above, there is a need for studies on the use of fibrolytic enzymes in pre-dried  
309 tropical grasses, aiming to enhance the activity of enzymes produced by microorganisms in the  
310 rumen, stimulating fiber degradation, increasing DM digestibility, and better animal  
311 performance.

312

### 313 **Conclusions**

314 The main forage grasses used in haylage production belong to the genera *Cynodon* spp. and  
315 *Panicum* spp., highlighting Tifton 85 grass and Tanzania grass, respectively. Around the world,  
316 the preservation technique in the form of pre-drying has gradually been adopted with the use of  
317 additives, seeking to improve the fermentative parameters and quality of the material.

318

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325 The authors declare that they have no competing interests regarding the work presented in this  
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327

328 *Author contributions*

329 ABAD, TPDS ALCG, MJA, LRB, RRN, CATM, RLE, LCVI and AJCC conducted  
330 experiment, collected the samples, and wrote the manuscript; ABAD and WCCV conceived  
331 and designed the study and wrote the manuscript; ABAD, TPDS ALCG, MJA, LRB, RRN,  
332 CATM, RLE, LCVI and AJCC wrote and reviewed the manuscript; All authors read and  
333 approved the manuscript.

334

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337

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