Mombasa Guinea Grass
*Panicum maximum*

**Background:**
Improved Guinea Grass variety that was introduced into Brazil from Tanzania in 1993, from near Korogwe, Tanzania (5.20°S 38.50°E, 290 m asl, rainfall 1,050 mm). Large tussocks to 2 m, stems tinged with purple. Leaves are long, to 3 cm wide, with short hairs on the upper surface; leaf sheaths are glabrous. Good drought and cold tolerance. Dry matter yield 17-28% more than that of common guinea grass.

**Productivity:**
Mombasa guinea grass is a tall grass, similar to hybrid Napier grass in habit, but far more leafy and is very suitable for cut-and-carry. It is a very productive leafy grass, producing between 20 and 40 t/ha dry matter per year.

**Crude protein levels:**
Can range from 8-12% crude protein on poor soils and 12-14 % crude protein on better soils.

**Animal production:**
In South America, liveweight gains of 770 kg/ha/yr compared with 600, and 590 kg/ha/yr from Gatton guinea and Tobiata guinea grasses. It is more productive than Tanzania guinea (TD58; Purple guinea) with over 20% more leaf dry matter.

**Establishment:**
Can be either planted in rows, 50 cm apart, or broadcast sown at 6-8 LB/ Acre. Sow the seed on to the soil surface, brush the seed with soil by using tree branches or large brooms. Bury the seed no more than 1-2 cm under the soil. It is easy to plant from rooted tillers.