

P-155 (2)**ESTABLISHMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF NOVEL BRAZILIAN NATIVE GRASS GENOTYPES AS TURF**

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The objective of this work was to evaluate establishment characteristics of eight Brazilian native grasses, namely *Axonopus parodii* - AP 01, *Paspalum leptum* - PL 01 and *P. notatum* - PN 01, PN 02, PN 03, PN 04, PN 05 and PN 06 as turfgrass, planted as spaced sprigs (10cm x 10cm). No records of agricultural use of two of these species (AP 01 and PL 01) were found. The experiment was conducted in a randomized block design, with four replicates of each genotype, in the Rain Forest Zone of the State of Pernambuco, Brazil (lat. 08°01'19"S; 34°59'33"W; 100 m a.s.l.) in October, 2013. For 69 days after the planting the plots were evaluated in terms of: sprig survival rate (%); ground coverage capacity (%; visually estimated); plant height and horizontal expansion (in m). The genotypes PN 01, PN 03 and PN 05 established at faster rates than the others for having presented high sprig survival rate, high ground coverage capacity and greater horizontal expansion capacity. All genotypes evaluated, but AP 01, achieved mowing demanding heights (more than 7,5cm) at the end of the experimental period. The genotype AP 01 presented low ground coverage capacity, but also great capacity for horizontal expansion and low plant height. It was concluded that the genotypes AP 01, PN 01, PN 03 and PN 05 have enough attributes to warrant their inclusion in tropical turfgrass cultivar development programs in Brazil.

Keywords: Native germplasm, ornamental grass, tropical turfgrass