

8. Use wood or bamboo stick as handle. Bind together with the panicles.



9. Arrange the panicles into fan-like form with plastic string or split rattan.



10. Decorate the handle or wrap with rolled plastic or split rattan to indicate the origin of the product

Economic benefits

The initial investment needed to establish a hectare of tiger grass plantation at 2m x 2m spacing is P25,570. The annual revenue to be obtained on the first year of harvest is P215,241.00 On the third year P261,836; P351,227 on the fourth year, and on the 5th year, P422,054. (Alibangsay Community-Based Upland Farmers' Association).

Cost & Return Analysis of Plantation Establishment and Production of Soft Broom per hectare at 2m x 2m spacing

| YEAR | HARVEST | | PRODUCTION COST (pesos) | GAIN (pesos) | | ROI |
|------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------|-------|
| | PANICLE (no.) | BROOM (no.) | | GROSS | NET | |
| 1 | 44,000 | 419 | 25,570 | 25,165 | (405) | - |
| 2 | 115,000 | 1,095 | 13,132 | 58,455 | 45,323 | 3.45 |
| 3 | 460,000 | 4,380 | 15,101 | 200,140 | 215,241 | 14.25 |
| 4 | 598,000 | 5,695 | 17,364 | 279,200 | 261,836 | 15.08 |
| 5 | 729,560 | 6,948 | 19,967 | 371,194 | 351,227 | 17.59 |
| 6 | 836,994 | 7,766 | 22,961 | 445,015 | 422,054 | 18.38 |

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Tiger Grass Technology (Buyboy)



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Introduction

Tiger grass (*Thysanolaena maxima*) locally known as tambo, is a viable source of livelihood for upland communities. It is a livelihood option that needs a minimal capital and is easy to manage. This plant can be a main crop or interspersed with fruit trees and other perennial crop.

Tiger grass produces panicles for a maximum period of 10 years. It is available in almost all regions in the Philippines.



Methods

Planting stock production

The common method to prepare tiger grass for better growth is by root stocks.

1. Uproot clump suckers of mature tiger grass. A one hectare plantation needs about 2,500 to 3,000 clumps containing at least three emerging suckers.
2. Cut upper portion leaving 10 cm of its vegetative part.

Plantation establishment

Site selection

- Tiger grass thrives in medium to high elevation, preferably hillsides slopes and logged-over areas.

Site preparation

- Clear the area if it is to be used solely for tiger grass production or spot clear if intersperse with other agricultural crops.
- Dig a hole 30 cm in diameter and 30 cm deep with spacing of 2 x 2 meters if planted alone or 4 x 4 meters if interplanted with other crops. Use contour planting.

Hauling and Handling

1. Haul planting stocks to the prepared planting site. Do not expose to direct sunlight.
2. If possible, plant stock within the day of collection to reduce mortality.

Planting and fertilizing

1. Plant at least three suckers to the prepared hole. Plant during the onset of the rainy season to ensure good root and shoot development.
2. Apply fertilizer once a year, before the onset of the rainy season. Organic fertilizer can be used. However, fertilization is not usual practice but is done in some less productive soil.



Plantation maintenance and protection

1. Replant dead ones before the rainy season ends.
2. Weed once a year as the need arises to minimize competition on soil nutrients, water and sunlight and to minimize fire hazard.
3. Protect the area from stray animals. If possible, introduce integrated Pest management (IPM) to minimize pest problem.

Harvesting and Hauling

The panicles usually develop from October and are harvested when the stalks are at least 70 cm long. Harvesting is done from February to March. The highest yield is observed on the 6th year of the plantation.

1. Cut the panicles with a sharp scythe or bolo.

2. Gather panicles and sun-dry for two to three days. Regularly turn panicles for uniform and fast drying.
3. Slightly shake or pat dried panicles against stone or wood to remove seeds. Bundle 105 panicles for every broom

Broom Production

Materials:

- 105 panicles (maximum)
- Kawayan or wooden stick wire
- Plastic string on split rattan

Procedure:

- Use a bundle consisting of 105 panicles (number of panicles may vary depending on the desired thickness of the broom) to make one broom.
- Sort the panicles according to length.
- Shear some of its first spikelets (flowers) and ensure that an average remaining length is maintained.
- Tie sheared spikelets to the main stem to add thickness to the broom.
- Maintain some of the stalks to serve as handle.
- Arrange the added spikelets (tightly bound with the string) into five to six small bundle (1-1.5 cm diameter) and bind together to make one big bundle.
- Tightly bind together the stalks using the wire to form the handle.

