

**Evaluation of new forage cultivars in South and Central Florida**

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**Introduction**

- Warm-season perennial grasses are the dominant forages used by beef cattle and dairy producers in Florida
- Forage production, nutritive value, and persistence are the main desirable agronomic traits in warm-season perennial grasses
- Adaptability is also important due to differences in edaphic and climatic conditions in distinct regions of the state of Florida

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**Introduction**

- The most productive and adapted warm-season perennial grasses in Florida are propagated by vegetative plant material
- There are several limitations of planting vegetative material, such as unpredictable climatic conditions to produce vegetative plant material, logistics of transporting vegetative material between locations, and machines and labor required for planting
- In addition, it is estimated that the cost to establish a warm-season perennial grass by vegetative plant material in Florida is approximately \$ 700.00/acre

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## Introduction

UF FLORIDA



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## Treatments

UF FLORIDA

- Cultivars:
  - Camello
  - Spain
  - Mombaca\*
  - Jiggs
- Locations:
  - Ona
  - Citra

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## Treatments

UF FLORIDA

Camello



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## Treatments

UF FLORIDA

Spain



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## Treatments

UF FLORIDA

Jiggs



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## Treatments

UF FLORIDA

Mombaca



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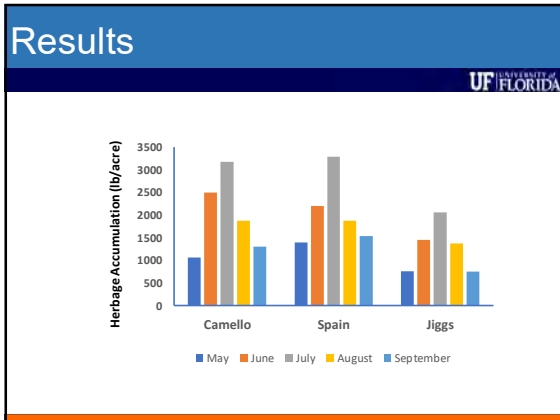
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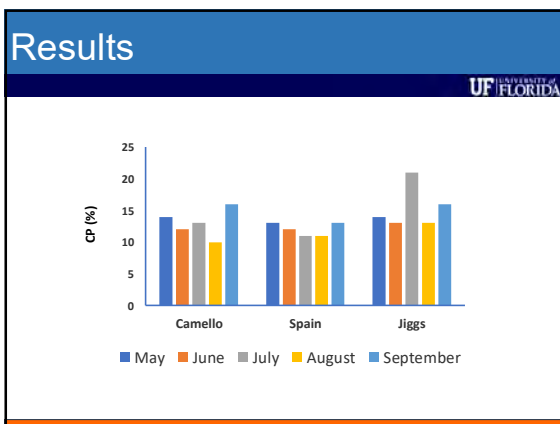
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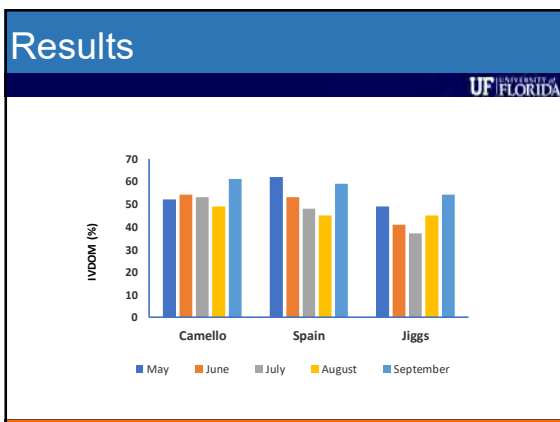
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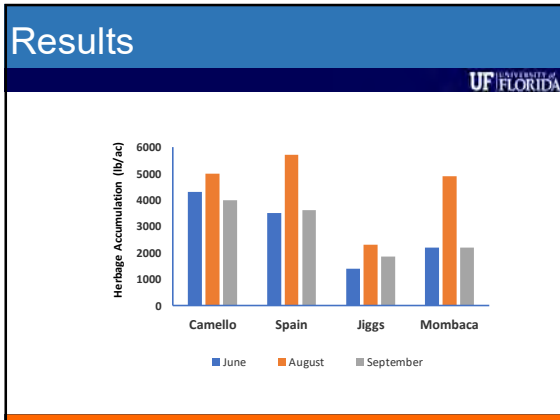
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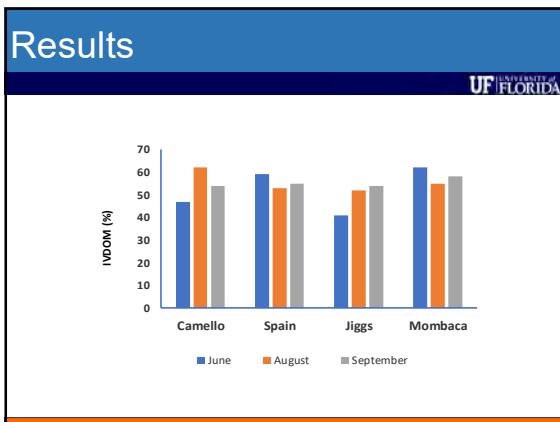
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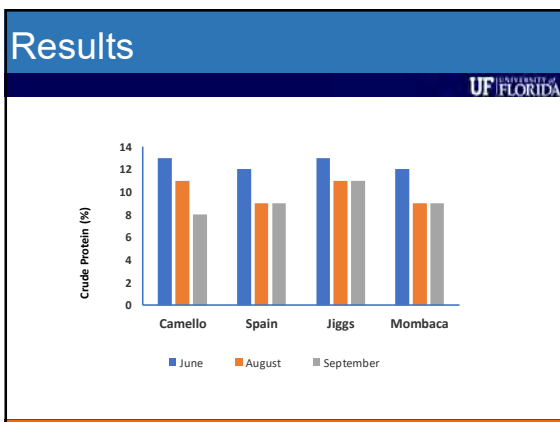
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## Results

Cultivar	Ground Cover (%)	
	2020	2021
Camello	84a	60b
Spain	93a	3c
Mombaca	69b	1c
Jiggs	64b	78a

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## Results



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## Conclusions

- The new cultivars propagated by seed tested in Ona and Citra have potential to be used as forage in Florida due to greater production and nutritive value than Jiggs
- However, Spain have reduced cold tolerance and should be used with caution in northern locations in Florida
- Further studies are being conducted at Ona and Citra to test persistence of Spain and Camello under frequent grazing and harvest
- These studies are funded by the Dairy Check-off Program and Florida Cattlemen's Enhancement Board

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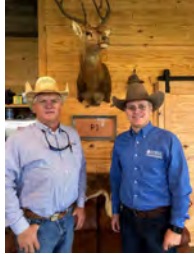
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Thank you



**Joe What? Podcast**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f\\_6nW\\_Vqjo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_6nW_Vqjo)



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