

## Coffee weeds control using sheep

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### Abstract

The control of weed, level of damage and economic advantages of the grazing with ovines was evaluated in a commercial coffee plantations, located in Junín county, Táchira state, latitude 7° north and longitude 72° west. Three treatments were related to stocking rate: 4.33 and 9.16 sheep unit (SU), (one SU = 30 Kg live weight); both during five days and 9.16 (SU) with variable stocking rate. A fourth treatment was manual and chemical weed control. It was used a split plot design in which the main plot was treatment, the block of shadow condition (0 % and 50 % solar interception) and the secondary plot was the climatic condition. The evaluations were made during thirteen months covering dry cycles and beginning and end of the rain. The weeds control ( $P < 0.05$  %) were 45.83 %, 65.45 %, 68.7 % and damage of plants of 1.19 %, 2.74 % and 11.06 % for low, variable and high grazing stoking rate, respectively. There were no weed control differences among the cycles of rain, but the control was greater under the shade regime. The costs did not shows significant differences between the control of weeds recommended and using ovines.

**Key words:** coffee, weeds, ovines, grazing.

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