

**PENGARUH FREKUENSI PENYIRAMAN TERHADAP TINGGI TANAMAN,  
JUMLAH CABANG, DAN DIAMETER BATANG ALFALFA TROPIK  
(*Medicago sativa* cv. Kacang Ratu BW)**

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**INTISARI**

Alfalfa merupakan tanaman pakan bernutrisi tinggi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengaruh frekuensi penyiraman terhadap tinggi tanaman, jumlah cabang, dan diameter batang alfalfa tropik (*Medicago sativa* cv. Kacang Ratu BW). Alfalfa tropik *regrowth* ke-6 umur 10 bulan dipelihara dengan perlakuan selama 30 hari setelah defoliiasi di Lahan Penelitian Hijauan dan Laboratorium Hijauan Makanan Ternak dan Pastura, Departemen Nutrisi dan Makanan Ternak, Fakultas Peternakan, Universitas Gadjah Mada. Penelitian ini menggunakan rancangan acak lengkap dengan empat (4) perlakuan frekuensi penyiraman yaitu setiap 1 hari sekali (P0), 2 hari sekali (P1), 4 hari sekali (P2), dan 6 hari sehari (P3), dengan tiga kali ulangan setiap perlakuan. Data penelitian yang didapatkan dianalisis variansi berdasarkan rancangan acak lengkap, dan hasil berbeda nyata dilanjutkan dengan uji DMRT (*Duncan's Multiple new Range Test*). Perhitungan analisis statistik dilakukan dengan bantuan *Statistical Product and Service Solution* (SPSS). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perbedaan frekuensi penyiraman tidak memengaruhi ( $P>0,05$ ) pertumbuhan vegetatif alfalfa tropik berupa tinggi tanaman, laju pertumbuhan, jumlah cabang, dan diameter batang. Kesimpulannya, alfalfa tropik dapat beradaptasi dengan baik terhadap cekaman kekeringan dan tetap tumbuh dengan baik meskipun dalam kondisi kering (kurang air).

Kata kunci : Alfalfa tropik, Frekuensi, Cekaman Kekeringan, Vegetatif

**The Effect of Watering Frequency on Plant Height, Number of  
Branches, and Stem Diameter of Tropical Alfalfa  
(*Medicago sativa* cv. Kacang Ratu BW)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Alfalfa is a highly nutritious forage plant. This study aimed to determine the effect of watering frequency on plant height, number of branches, and stem diameter of tropical alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* cv. Kacang Ratu BW). The sixth regrowth of 10-month-old tropical alfalfa was maintained under treatment conditions for 30 days after defoliation at the Forage Research Field the Laboratory of Forage and Pasture, Department of Animal Nutrition and Feed Science, Faculty of Animal Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada. The experiment was arranged in a completely randomized design with four (4) watering frequency treatments: once every 1 day (P0), once every 2 days (P1), once every 4 days (P2), and once every 6 days (P3), with three replications for each treatment. Data obtained were analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) based on the completely randomized design, and significant differences were further tested using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT). Statistical analysis was performed using the Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) software. The research results show that differences watering frequencies did not significantly affect ( $P>0.05$ ) the vegetative growth of tropical alfalfa, including plant height, growth rate, number of branches, and stem diameter. In conclusion, tropical alfalfa can adapt well to drought stress and continues to grow satisfactorily even under limited water conditions.

**Keywords:** Tropical alfalfa, Frequency, Drought stress, Vegetative