

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_72551
Title of the Manuscript:	Speargrass [<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (L.) Raeuschel] growth in relation to rainfall and temperature patterns of southern agro-ecologies of Nigeria.
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>Introduction: The introduction part provides useful information about the speargrass and its growth in relation with rainfall and temperature patterns. It is suggested that the authors should add more information about some previous and current research on how the evaluation of correlations between speargrass growth and crop yield, will benefit the agricultural activities. Hopefully, this information will make the aim of this study more significant and valuable.</p> <p>Methodology: The materials and methods are not well designed. The authors described the study sites, locations of study sites. One thing is that the author did not mention the standard methods they used for analysis of dry matter.</p> <p>Results: All results are displayed in Tables 1 and 2. It is advised that the results correlated in order to be able to interpret the data to add more understanding on their variables.</p> <p>I would like to suggest that since there was no analysis on crop growth along side with the speargrass growth in the same land area, it is very difficult to relate the influence of crop-speargrass interaction.</p> <p>Discussion: I will advise the authors to redirect their discussions with respect to their objectives.</p> <p>Authors are advised to only discuss their results with respect to the speargrass dry matter according to the different seasons as influenced by rain fall and temperature variations..</p> <p>References: references are well written with a unique style required by this journal. More citations are required to value to this work especially at the introductory and the methodology sections.</p> <p>There are missing references cited in the text but not found in reference section like; Kimball, (1983,) Poorter, (1993) Aluko et al., (2019)</p> <p>Aluko (2018) is in the reference section and is not cited in the text.</p>	
Minor REVISION comments	<p>Abstract: the authors are advised to revise the abstract and further summarise it. They should remove 'Table 2' cited in this section.</p> <p>Introduction: we need more referencing in this part of the work. The chemistry of how speargrass growth interacts with crop growth is not clear.</p> <p>Methodology: The authors should cite standard referenced methods in this section.</p>	
Optional/General comments	<p>I think the topic is well formulated but the growth of any plant is more influenced by the soil physicochemical properties than the amount of rainfall and temperatures. Their findings could have be more meaningful if some soil samples collected in the research sites were done to add more meaning to their findings.</p>	

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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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