



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Dundee Research Station

Dundee Research Station is located in the uMzinyathi District Municipality, about 10 km from the town of Dundee on the road to Nquthu.

Postal address:

P.O. Box 626, Dundee, 3000

Physical address:

Dundee Research Station, Nquthu Road

Telephone : 034-212 2479

Situation: S28° 08' 19 74

E30° 18' 53 52

Elevation: 1247 m

Rainfall: Average of 740 mm/annum

Topography: A relatively flat relief.

Size: 1335 ha



THE PAST

A need was expressed by the farmers of the dry phase of the Tall Grassveld zone for guidance in the use and development of this area, especially as regards the management of the sandy soils. It was agreed that a research station be established to meet those needs. Eventually the present property was acquired and in October 1965, the development of the research station commenced.

Partly due to the financial support given by the Oil Seeds Control Board, the Dundee Research Station developed so rapidly that most of the necessary facilities were available on the Station by January 1970.

NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

This research farm falls into the Sour Sandveld BRG14. This BRG is recognized by the dominance of *Hyparrhenia hirta* grassland. Within this BRG, only one Bioresource Unit (BRU) is found, namely UVc6 (Dundee Research Station). The dry phase of the Tall Grass Veld, in which the Research Station is situated, comprises about 13% of the Region. This zone is characterized by warm summers (mean 21°C) and cool winters (mean 11°C) with frosts.

The property has a relatively flat relief and is underlain by sandstones and shales of the Upper Ecca series and doleritic intrusions are common.

The natural grassveld consists of *Hyparrhenia*, *Tristachya* and *Digitaria* species but due to mismanagement, thorn encroachment is a serious problem in some areas. In the Dundee area a large proportion of what appears to be natural grazing is actually abandoned lands which have a low livestock carrying capacity.

The mean annual rainfall is 740 mm, of which about 30% falls during the period October to March. Hail and heavy downpours occur frequently. Mean maximum January temperature for this farm is 28°C while mean minimum July temperature is 2°C. Occasional severe frost can be experienced on the farm, on average 16 days may occur within a period of 68 days.

The main farming operations are beef production and cash cropping. Fodder production is becoming increasingly important in this area, which undoubtedly, has a high potential for livestock farming.

RESEARCH STATION PROGRAMME

There are four sections at Dundee, namely animal science, grassland science, crop production and farm services (who provide services to all other sections).

More detail is supplied under the relevant research directorates.