Summary

The performance of 39 germplasm accessions of Arachis pintoi, recently introduced to Colombia, was evaluated on a Vertisol at the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), located in Palmira, Valle del Cauca, Colombia, which is classified as a tropical dry forest ecosystem. Rooted cuttings of A. pintoi were planted in small plots, consisting of two rows of the legume alternated with three rows of the grass Brachiaria decumbens. After a 6-month establishment

phase, the pasture was cut every month to 10 cm to simulate frequent grazing. Phenological, agronomic, and quality evaluations were carried out during pasture establishment and during a two-year production phase. Performance varied widely for all attributes evaluated. Most tested accessions adapted well to prevailing environmental conditions. Accessions were classified according to potential uses. Accessions CIAT 22233, 22236, 22238, and 22241 were considered suitable as cover crops under perennial crops, such as coffee, fruit trees, or banana; as green manure; and as pastures for grazing in association with aggressive grasses. However, these accessions would have to be propagated vegetatively because their seed production is very poor. The only other multipurpose accession with high potential to be used as cover crop, green manure, and pasture for grazing was CIAT 18744, recently released in Costa Rica as cultivar Porvenir. Accession CIAT 22235 showed potential as cover crop and green manure, and CIAT 22268 as cover crop and pasture for grazing.