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Grassland seed mixtures for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity

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SUMMARY

Growing of perennial forages on arable land is an important part of the agricultural production system. Forages on arable land are excellent interrupters of crop rotation systems.

Significant attention must be paid to selection of suitable components. Examples of successful legume-grass mixtures for arable land in dry conditions are mentioned. Another important problem is the creation of recultivation seed mixtures for arid conditions. Very important role play genetic resources of both traditional and also neglected forages. For special purposes of recultivation three seed mixtures (annual, landscape and regional) were prepared and tested at four localities for seven years. The best mixture for arid conditions proved to be regional mixture. In this mixture statistically significant increase of the vegetation cover in the year 2014 compared to 2009 was found.

Basing on these results the composition was adjusted and those two mixtures were submitted to patent protection under

- function and leave big amount of
- organic mass in the soil. Thanks to
- nitrification bacteria presence on
- their roots legumes increase the
- content of mineral nitrogen in the
- soil.

Drought resistant and deeply rooted alfalfa is able with its roots disrupt compacted soil profile and to imbibe water and nutrients from deeper layers of the soil.

Landscape is more and more intensively influenced by man. Degradation changes could be observed on large areas of landscape, especially in intensively agriculturally managed areas. Intensive water and wind erosion damages the soil. Due to lack of humus the soil cannot retain the water, nutrients, and thus is degraded. Degradation is very often connected with mineral material mining and subsequent recultivation (Russell & La Roi, 1986). If the degradation is strong and intensive, the land is not suitable for agricultural use and have to be grassed or afforested (Vašk , 2008). Restoration ecology is a scientific branch, first mentioned by Hobbs & Harris (2001), studying restoration of man degraded habitats. Its main aim is increasing the biodiversity, increase of water retention capacity, anti-erosion protection and establishment of new ecosystems.

(Russell & La Roi, 1986).

2008).

(2001),

(Vašk ,

Hobbs & Harris

2005).

(Dubrovský et al.,

(Jongepierová & Pokova, 2006)

Grassing or forestation of degraded soil in arid conditions is not easy. This problem is increasing in its importance due to climatic change. Climatic change will lead, according to most of the models, to longer and more frequent periods of drought and bigger climatic fluctuations (Dubrovský et al., 2005).

The oldest way of restoration on degraded areas is spontaneous succession, but it is a very time consuming process (Jongepierová & Pokova, 2006). Spontaneous succession is used very often, because it is very cheap method of restoration of the vegetation cover. It is important on places and localities surrounded by semi natural vegetation. Recultivation has better results at localities, which are integrated into natural vegetation or in case of small area of target plots.

First of all, technical recultivation prepares the locality for biological recultivation. Biological recultivation means in most cases sowing of suitable seed mixture and then plant woody plants on recultivated area.

Composing and testing of special seed mixtures has a long tradition in Troubsko workplace. Very important role play genetic resources of both traditional and also neglected forages. Our workplace use large collections

Pelikán et al. (2005);
 Vymyslický et al. (2011)
 Vymyslický & Badalíková (2015).

stored at the Czech national gene bank in Prague-Ruzyn. In the past some of the methodological approaches and scientific results were published by Pelikán et al. (2005); Vymyslický et al. (2011) and Vymyslický & Badalíková (2015).

The main objective of our study was to discuss important points concerning the preparation of seed mixtures both for arable land and for recultivation in dry areas. Case study on testing three recultivation seed mixtures for arid areas is also presented.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two actual problems and mixture types are discussed in this paper: 1) legume-grass mixtures on arable land and 2) recultivation seed mixtures for arid conditions. In this paper we describe research methodology of the recultivation seed mixtures for arid conditions.

Similar methods are used for research of all mixtures that we perform in our institute.

In the years 2008-2014 three seed mixtures had been tested at four localities (Hodonín, Troubsko, Zub í, Rousínov), plot size was 10m², four repetitions were used. The seed mixtures were following: annual mixture, sowing rate 70 kg.ha⁻¹, landscape mixture, sowing rate 30 kg.ha⁻¹, regional mixture, sowing rate 60 kg.ha⁻¹ and control (succession). These mixtures were composed with respect to their use

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 2) .
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 2008-2014,
 (Hodonín,
 Troubsko, Zub í, Rousínov)
 10m²,
 :
 70 kg.ha⁻¹,
 30
 kg.ha⁻¹,
 60 kg.ha⁻¹,
 ().

- in warm and dry areas and on areas with symptoms of desertification.
- Initial species composition is presented in Table 1.

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1.

Table 1. The composition of sown mixtures

/Annual		/Landscape		/Regional	
/Species	%	/Species	%	/Species	%
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	10	<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	0,9	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	2
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	19	<i>Festuca ovina</i>	12,8	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	6,5
<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	6	<i>Festuca rubra</i> – bunch type	25,5	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	5
<i>Phalaris canariensis</i>	15	<i>Festuca rubra</i> – stoloniferous type	38,3	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	6
		<i>Poa pratensis</i>	7,7	<i>Festuca ovina</i>	19,9
				<i>Festuca rubra</i>	6
				<i>Festuca rupicola</i>	4,8
				<i>Festuca valesiaca</i>	2,1
				<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	9,4
				<i>Phleum phleoides</i>	1,9
				<i>Poa angustifolia</i>	0,2
				<i>Poa pratensis</i>	6
%	50		85,2		69,8
Total % of grasses					
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	8	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	3	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	0,5
<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	1	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	2,9	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	4,6
<i>Lupinus albus</i>	7	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	3	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	0,5
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	23	<i>Securigera varia</i>	3	<i>Astragalus cicer</i>	0,2
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	4	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	2,9	<i>Astragalus lasiopetalus</i>	1,4
<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	1			<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	0,1
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	6			<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	0,5
				<i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i>	1,2
				<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	0,5
				<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	0,4
				<i>Medicago falcata</i>	0
				<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	7,4
				<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1,9
				<i>Plantago media</i>	0,1
				<i>Securigera varia</i>	6
				<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	0,2
				<i>Trifolium alpestre</i>	0,2
				<i>Trifolium medium</i>	0
				<i>Trifolium repens</i>	3,2
				<i>Trifolium rubens</i>	0,4
				<i>Veronica teucrium</i>	0,1
				<i>Vicia pisiformis</i>	0,7
				<i>Vicia villosa</i>	0,1
%	50		14,8		30,2
Total % of herbs					
%/Total %	100		100		100

2009 2014
1m².

534

Turboveg Windows
(Hennekens & Schaminée, 2001).

Statistica Windows
(Statsoft, Inc., 2014)

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0.05.

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- Phytosociological relevés were recorded annually in their vegetation optimum in the years 2009 to 2014 at permanent plots of 1m². Both total cover and the cover of individual species were evaluated using Braun-Blanquet scale. In total 534 phytosociological relevés had been recorded.

- Phytosociological relevés were recorded into database program Turboveg for Windows (Hennekens & Schaminée, 2001). Recorded data were evaluated in the programme Statistica for Windows (Statsoft, Inc., 2014) by the method analysis of variance by the method of two-way data sorting. Chosen method enabled us to find the relation of cover of botanical groups – grasses, herbs, clovers, weeds. Obtained differences in data were tested by Tukey test at the significance level 0.05.

- On the basis of the research initial species composition of the mixtures was adjusted and two of the mixtures were registered for patent protection. Nowadays the mixtures are under patent protection and are distributed to customers under business names „Sahara“ and „Panonie“.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Basic part of legume-grass mixtures on arable land are high yielding legumes and grasses, which provide high forage quality.

grasses together with alfalfa. It is very important to have synchronised growth rhythms of both legume and grass element in the mixtures, because harvest should be done at the same phenological phase.

One possibility of forage production is growing of legume-grass mixtures, which have optimal ratio of nutrients in proper harvest time.

Compared to pure stands, mixtures have higher forage yield stability, because in spring period rich in moisture grow better grasses, and in dry summer period grow better legumes, especially deeply rooted alfalfa, which utilize the water from deeper layers of the soil.

Legume-grass mixtures are suitable for both green and conserved forage. Conservation could be made by drying, silage and haylage preparation.

For production of high quality forage the share of grasses should be maximum 25% in the first cut.

It could be reached by proper seed mixture preparation. As an example a mixture of 16 kg of alfalfa and 3 kg of *Festulolium* hybrid Felina could be mentioned.

This amount of seeds is suitable for sowing of the area of one

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(Vorlí ek et al., 2009).

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In the recent years in the Czech Republic occur prolonged periods of severe droughts, that limit very significantly summer growth of grasses. That is why we decided to select species and varieties of grasses tolerant to droughts and thus suitable as mixture components for dry areas. Important part of the trials was to find optimal ratio of individual components in the mixtures in order to have ideal ratio of grass and legume species in harvested forage. Very important was synchronised growth rhythms.

In our trials mixtures were based on alfalfa, *Festulolium Felina* and late variety of orchard grass. We found that at dry localities the ratio of grass could be increased up to 50 %.

As an example a mixture of 9 kg *Festulolium Felina* + 15 kg of alfalfa could be mentioned. This amount of seeds is suitable for sowing of the area of one hectare (Lang, 2013).

Harvested forage does not have to be used only as forage, but also as input for biogas stations. In the Czech Republic there are 507 biogas stations (2015) with installed power 358 MW. Most of the stations are designed for the use of agricultural products. The best crop for biogas stations is maize. Growing of maize requires high inputs of

, *Festulolium Felina*

50%.

Festulolium Felina + 15 kg

9 kg

(Lang, 2013).

507
(2015)
358 MW

- pesticides and fertilisers, which negatively influence the soil quality and the whole environment.

One possibility how to prevent the negative effects is the use of biomass produced from permanent grasslands, or from forages grown on arable land.

Results of many experiments show, that grassland biomass has lower energetic potential, but production of grassland biomass is much cheaper than growing of maize. Environmental benefits of grassland are much better than in the case of maize (Kyselý & Houdek, 2012).

Houdek, 2012).

(Kyselý &

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165

9.9

Concerning the research on recultivation mixtures, into statistical analyses we put 534 phytosociological relevés, in which were recorded 165 plant species. Average number of plant species was 9.9 per plot. This number is quite low when we compare our relevés to other types of grassland vegetation. The most common species in our phytosociological relevés were *Festuca rubra* agg., *Trifolium repens*, *Conyza canadensis*, *Lolium multiflorum*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Echinochloa crus-gallii*, *Agrostis capillaris* and *Stellaria media*. Except of *Conyza canadensis* and *Stellaria media* all the species were sown as mixture components. From that point of

Festuca rubra agg.,
Trifolium repens, *Conyza*
canadensis, *Lolium multiflorum*,
Lotus corniculatus, *Plantago*
lanceolata, *Echinochloa crus-gallii*,
Agrostis capillaris *Stellaria media*.
Conyza
canadensis *Stellaria media*,

(2008),

view the mixtures could be considered as very successful. Generally, due to very dry season after sowing (spring 2008), intensive germination of sown species was observed in the autumn and in the next spring. Since the second year, both regional and landscape mixtures, had very good performance. Cover of the vegetation increased year by year. The results are presented in Table 3.

3.

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Table 3. Cover of the vegetation in tested mixtures, calculated in all 534 recorded phytosociological relevés

Vegetation cover (%)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
/Annual mixture	80.1	70.3	77.1	79.5	86.6	88.1	88.4
- /Landscape mixture	58.5	81.4	84.9	87.1	89.4	88.5	90.3
- /Regional mixture	71.2	75.7	83.4	89.4	86.2	91.1	91.5
/Total	69.9	75.8	81.8	85.3	87.4	89.2	90.1

Grasses took over the dominance in the second year, while the cover of non-sown species decreased since the second year. From the point of view of plant biodiversity of tested mixtures the best was regional mixture, which could be used for recultivation of arid areas. The mixture is composed from higher number of species, which can properly replenish micro habitats, following different micro habitats conditions.

(p^{***})

2011 2014.

4.

Statistically significant changes (p^{***}) were observed in cover of grasses in the period from 2011 to 2014. The results are presented in Table 4.

5. “
Table 5. Composition of patented seed mixture „Sahara“

/Component	/Species name	[%]/Representation in the mixture [weight %]
/Grasses (Poaceae)	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	3
	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	5
	<i>Festuca ovina</i> agg.	5
	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg. – bunch type	5
	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg. – shortly stoloniferous type	10
	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg. – stoloniferous type	15
	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> var. <i>westerwoldicum</i>	15
	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	12
	<i>Poa pratensis</i> agg.	10
/Legumes (Fabaceae)	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	4
	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	3
	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	2
	<i>Securigera varia</i>	3
	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	3
/Herbs	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> agg.	0,8
	<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	0,6
	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	0,5
	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	0,3
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1,8
	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	0,6
	<i>Verbascum densiflorum</i>	0,4

6. “
Table 6. Composition of patented seed mixture „Panonie“

/Component	/Species name	[%]/Representation in the mixture [weight %]
/Grasses (Poaceae)	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	1
	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	5
	<i>Bromus erectus</i>	2
	<i>Festuca ovina</i> agg.	15
	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg. – bunch type	5
	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg. – shortly stoloniferous type	10
	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg. – stoloniferous type	15
	<i>Festuca rupicola</i>	5
	<i>Festuca valesiaca</i>	3
	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	1,5
	<i>Koeleria pyramidata</i>	1,5
	<i>Phleum phleoides</i>	3
	<i>Poa compressa</i>	8
	<i>Poa pratensis</i> agg.	5

/Legumes (Fabaceae)	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	1,5
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	1
	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	0,5
	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	0,8
	<i>Securigera varia</i>	0,2
	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	0,8
	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	0,2
/Herbs	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	0,5
	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> agg.	0,6
	<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	1
	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	0,5
	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	0,5
	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	0,2
	<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	1
	<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	1
	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	1,2
	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	0,8
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	0,2
	<i>Plantago media</i>	0,4
	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	0,6
	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	0,8
	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	1,5
	<i>Salvia verticillata</i>	0,8
	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	0,6
	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	1,2
	<i>Stachys recta</i>	1
<i>Tanacetum corymbosum</i>	0,6	

CONCLUSIONS

- Perennial forages on arable land are very important part of the crop rotation systems. Forages are excellent atmospheric nitrogen fixators. They can be used both for animal feed and in biogas stations. Great attention have to be paid to proper component selection.
- Examples of successful legume-grass mixtures for arable land in dry conditions are mentioned. They are based on *Festulolium Felina*, *Dactylis glomerata* and *Medicago sativa*. Another important studied problem is the creation of suitable recultivation seed mixtures, especially for arid conditions. In these mixtures not only commercial

Festulolium Felina,
Dactylis glomerata *Medicago sativa*.

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varieties are used.

Very important role play genetic resources of neglected and minor forage crops.

- . For special purposes of biological
- recultivation three seed mixtures (annual, landscape and regional)
- were prepared and tested at four localities for seven years. The best
- mixture for arid conditions proved to
- be the regional mixture. In this mixture statistically significant
- increase of the vegetation cover in the year 2014 compared to 2009
- was found. In the same time ration of weeds decreased significantly.
- Basing on these results the composition was adjusted and those two mixtures were submitted to patent protection under the names "Sahara" and "Panonie".

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 - arid climate“ and the institutional
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 2B08020 – "
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Growing of cereals in organic farming field

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SUMMARY

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52,5m².

A field experiment was conducted at the experimental field of IASS "Obraztsov chiflik" - Rousse, with ecologically grounded crop rotation, including the cultivation of two cereals ("Venka 1" wheat variety and "Obzor" malting barley variety) - and two legumes on an area after conversion. The experiment was started after the eightfold scheme of Georges Ville in 3 replications, situated after Ryumker, the size of the harvesting plot being 52,5m². Pesticides were not applied on the crops, also and organic fertilizers and improvers of the soil, prohibited for the organic production.

The objective of the study was the biological control of weeds, diseases and pests in crops of cereals grown under conditions of organic farming to be observed and described.

In the organic field, the diversity of weed species was influenced by climatic conditions, soil tillages and crops sown. There were differences in weed infestation of crops only in terms of

m²,

Erysiphe graminis Puccinia recondite

quantities of weeds per m², which was in direct connection with certain biological characteristics of the crop.

Species and population density of useful insects during the period of study were adequate and appropriate system of control of harmful insects below the Economic injury level.

In each year of the study in crop-rotation, development of Erysiphe graminis and Puccinia recondite was reported – diseases of economic importance for the country in cereals. That was explained by the climatic conditions for the relevant period.

Key words: organic farming, monitoring, mapping, diseases, weeds, pests

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming relies extremely on crop rotations with legumes, utilization of plant residues from farms and green manuring, biological and agrotechnical pest control (weeds, diseases and insects), suitable soil tillages, and plant nutrition with organic fertilizers, maintenance and improvement of the natural soil fertility, biodiversity and ecological balance of the environment.

The growing of cereals in the system of organic farming is aimed to obtain quality products without use of pesticides.

This leads to a deficiency in feeding regime.

Weed species compete with

1987;
1991).

(, 2008;
, 2004; Bulson,

- crops in terms of the main factors of vegetation, thereby they reduce yield and decrease the quality of agricultural production (Koleva, 2008; Lyubenov, 1987; Shternsis, 2004; Bulson, 1991). One of the main methods of biological regulation of weeds is the creation of conditions that increase the competitiveness of crops through appropriate crop rotations, varieties, terms and norms of sowing, etc. (Shpara, 2003).

. (, 2003).

- So far in our country comprehensive growing technologies of organic farming in cereals have not been developed yet. In organic farms foreign technology developments are mostly applied that are partially adapted to and are not consistent with soil-climate and production conditions of our country.

- The objective of the study was the biological control of weeds, diseases and insects in stands of cereals, grown under conditions of organic farming to be observed and described.

2005

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Since 2005 Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science "Obraztsov chiflik" - Rousse has begun research activities, focused on developing of organic growing technologies of cereals and legumes on an area after conversion. The period till 2008

2008 .,

(2009; Nenova ., 2011).

7 2013

. 16 19 2013 .

5 da.

1,65%,
N (10,75 mg/1000 g
) P₂O₅ (6,31
mg/1000 g)
K₂O (22,50 mg/1000 g
) 0-40 cm.
(pH KCL – 5,01%).

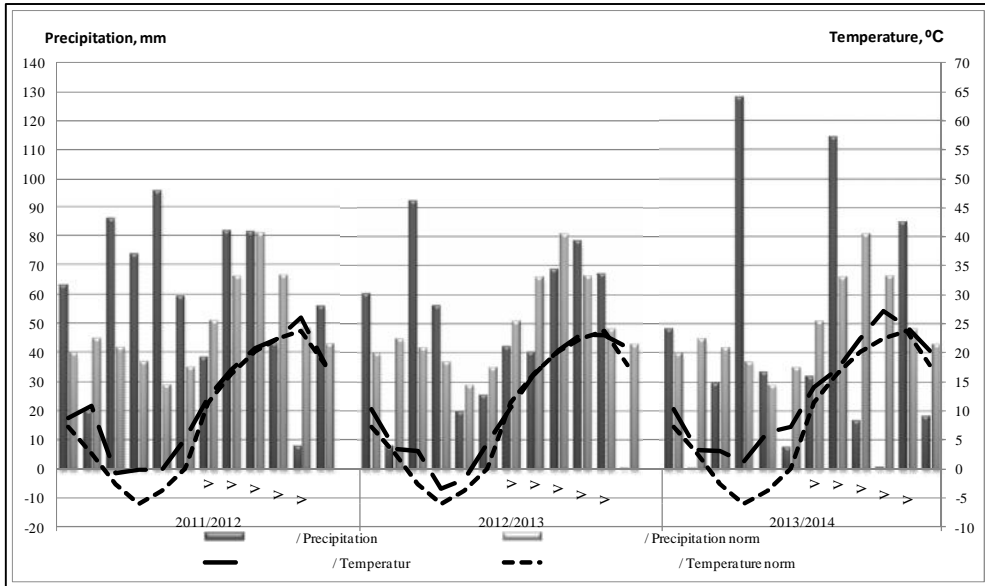
- could be determined as preparatory, during which preliminary studies were made on
- the productivity of individual cereals and legumes without use of fertilizers and degree of weed
- infestation – without use of
- chemical preparations for plant protection (Nenova and Atanasov, 2009; Nenova et al., 2011).

The first stage involves the selection of a suitable area and preparing it to create an experimental field for organic farming, consistent with the requirements of Regulation 1 of February 7, 2013 of MAF for applying the rules of organic production, Prom. SG. 16 of 19 February 2013.

- An area of 5 da located on the territory of the Institute, was chosen for that purposes. The soil type, on which the experiment was started was strongly leached
- chernozem and was characterized
- with poor humus content – 1.65%, poorly stocked with mineral N (10,75 mg/1000 g soil) and mobile
- P₂O₅ (6,31 mg/1000 g soil) and well stocked with K₂O (22,50
- mg/1000 g soil) in the layer 0-40
- cm. The soil reaction is acidic (pH
- As KCL – 5,01%). The mechanical soil structure is heavy sandy-clay.

- The Institute is situated in the Northern climatic region of the Danubian plain. This climatic
- region is with well pronounced continental features, average

600mm.	500	<p>annual precipitation – from 500 to 600 mm. Compared with the other lowland areas of Bulgaria, the winter in this area is the coldest and the summer – the hottest, the spring is short and cool, and the autumn is long and warm.</p>
-	-	
e	-	<p>The high and sustainable yield obtained of agricultural crops is highly dependent on both – agricultural practices conducted, and meteorological conditions of the year.</p>
2011-2014	-	<p>In 2011-2014 a field experiment was conducted with environmentally justified crop rotation including growing of 2 cereals – "Venka 1" wheat variety and "Obzor" malting barley variety on an area after conversion. The experiment was started after the eightfold scheme of Georges Villas in 3 replications according to Ryumker, the size of the harvesting plot being 52,5m², after predecessors field beans and forage peas. Pesticides, organic fertilizers and soil improvers, unallowed for the organic production, were not applied.</p>
3	2	
52,5m ² ,	-	
(1).	-	<p>During the three years of study, significant deviations from the values of the daily average temperature were not observed, compared with the crop requirements of the multiannual period (Figure 1).</p>



1
Fig.1. Climatic characteristics for 2011-2014

2013
 (505,6 mm),
 128,3 mm
 mm
 2014 (311,6 mm).
 100 mm
 17 13

Differences were observed in terms of the sums and distribution of precipitation during the experimental period. The highest precipitation quantities during the vegetation of the crops tested were reported in 2013 (505,6 mm), exceeding by 128,3 mm the norm of 235,1 mm, average for the multiannual period.

Closest to the multiannual period are the rainfalls in the year 2014 (311.6 mm). Typical for this year is that a bigger part of the rainfalls have fallen in December. Exceptions are the rainfalls in May which are 100mm more than the norm. Around the norm are the rainfalls in June and July but they are distributed respectively in 17 and 13 days. This led to the development of fungal diseases. The sum of the rainfalls in 2012 is

2012 (236,8 mm). less than the multiannual period (236.8mm).

m² () , During the period of study the weed infestation of crops was reported in organic crop rotation. Weed species were registered by sight method (number of weeds per m² by biological groups and species diversity), and the level of weed infestation – after the quantity-weighting method (Dimitrova et al., 2004). Weeds were reported in phases tillering and ear formation of crops.

(, 2004). (Monitoring of the entomofauna was performed during the spring vegetation period of crops from early May till harvesting. The conventional method of strokes was used with a standard entomological net. The species and quantity of entomofauna were registered in samples of 25 strokes with entomological net = 5m², The samples were taken in two replications, once per a week in a clear and calm weather. The results were processed by crop.

= 25 = 5m². The classification of species was made after Boychev (1979), according to which: dominant species were over 15% participation, subdominant – from 5 to 15%, secondary – from 1 to 5%.

(1979), : 15% ,
 – 5 15%,
 – 1 5%.

6- Phytopathological evaluation was performed, according to the six-point scales of Cobb and Saari I Preskot (1988). 10 samples, including 20 plants of each variety were processed. The degree of infestation was recorded according

bb Saari I Preskot (1988). 10 , 20 , 0

9, 0
 3 25 %
 7 – 50 75 %
 9 –
 – 75 %

to the six-point scale from 0 to 9, where 0 – healthy plants, 1 – plants with single spots or affected leaf area to 10%, 3 – affected area to 25%, 5 – up to 50%, 7 – 50 to 75% of the leaf area and 9 – strongly infested plants, more than 75% of the leaves.

The objective of the study was the biological control of weeds, diseases and pests in crops of cereals grown under conditions of organic farming to be observed and described.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the conditions of organic farming, the weed infestation of cereals is one of the most significant problems in the agrotechnics of their growing. At the experimental field, the weeds types are influenced of the climate conditions, soil treatments and the planted crops.

The experimental area was with representative natural background of weed infestation with predominant participation of: spring-autumn weeds – chickweed – *Stellaria media* (L.), shepherd's purse – *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) etc., early spring weeds – pheasant's eye – *Adonis aestivalis* (L.), common speedwell – *Veronica agrestis* (L.), red dead nettle – *Lamium purpureum* (L.), etc., late spring weeds – pigweed – *Amaranthus retroflexus* (L.), white goosefoot – *Chenopodium album* (L.), green bristlegrass – *Setaria viridis* (L.), barnyard grass – *Echinochloa crusgalli* (L.), blood

Stellaria media (L.),
 – *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.)
 ..
 – *Adonis aestivalis* (L.),
 – *Veronica agrestis* (L.),
 – *Lamium purpureum* (L.)
 ..
 – *Amaranthus retroflexus* (L.),
Chenopodium album (L.),
 – *Setaria viridis* (L.),
 – *Echinochloa crusgalli*

(L.),	-	<i>Digitaria</i>	millet - <i>Digitaria sanguinale</i> (L.),
<i>sanguinale</i> (L.),	-		black nightshade - <i>Solanum nigrum</i>
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> (L.)	.,		(L.), etc., winter-spring weeds -
	-		chamomile - <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> (L.)	.		(L.), etc. In perennial weeds the
			representatives of soboles
			dominated: corn bindweed -
	:		<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> (L.) and
- <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> (L.)			Canada thistle - <i>Cirsium arvense</i>
- <i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.),			(L.); rhizomes - Johnson grass -
	-	<i>Sorghum</i>	<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.).
<i>halepense</i> (L.).			
			The distribution of weeds in
			wheat and malting barley was
			similar. Differences in weed
			infestation in both crops there were
			only in terms of quantity of weeds
		m ² .	per m ² . In that case the differences
			in weed infestation were in direct
			connection with certain biological
			characteristics of the crops. The
			winter barley in its first phases
			developed slower, often in winter it
			was freezing, thinning, stems were
			lower than the stems of the wheat.
			Therefore, there were huge gaps in
			the stand, where in autumn and
			early spring seedlings of weeds
			emerged en masse. Species,
			found in wheat and barley were
			over 120, but the most commonly
			found were: black nightshade -
120,	-	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	(L.) field
			speedwell - <i>Veronica arvensis</i> (L.),
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> (L.)	-		chamomile - <i>Matricaria</i>
- <i>Veronica arvensis</i> (L.),			<i>chamomilla</i> (L.), shepherd's purse
- <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> (L.),			- <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.),
		<i>Capsella</i>	groundsel species - <i>Senecio</i>
<i>bursa-pastoris</i> (L.),			<i>vernalis</i> W.K., Canadian fleabane-
- <i>Senecio vernalis</i> W.K.,			<i>Erigeron Canadensis</i> (L.), field
- <i>Erigeron Canadensis</i>			camomile - <i>Anthemis arvensis</i> (L),
(L.),		<i>Anthemis</i>	corn bindweed - <i>Convolvulus</i>
<i>arvensis</i> (L),	-		

Convolvulus arvensis (L.)

arvensis (L.), etc.

41 69 /m²,

(1).

Weed infestation in wheat was more pronounced as the total number of weeds ranged from 41 to 69 pcs/m², and in malting barley— from 42 to 61 pcs/m² (Table 1).

1.
2012-2014 , /m²

Table 1. Weed infestation in wheat and malting barley during period 2012-2014, psc./m²

/ Weeds	2012	2013	2014	C Average for the period 2012-2014
/Wheat				
/ Annual broad - leaf				
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> (L.)	5	3	8	5
<i>Veronica arvensis</i> (L.)	3	5	3	4
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> (L.)	5	3	6	5
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.)	2	3	4	3
<i>Senecio vernalis</i> W.K.	4	3	9	5
<i>Erigeron Canadensis</i> (L.)	1	2	5	3
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i> (L)	3	2	7	4
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.)	5	3	6	5
<i>Lamium purpureum</i> (L.)	5	5	8	6
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> (L.)	3	4	4	4
<i>Chenopodium album</i> (L.)	5	4	9	6
/ Perennial broad - leaf				
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> (L.)	1	3	0	1
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.)	2	1	0	1
/ Total	44	41	69	51
/ Malting barley				
/ Annual broad - leaf				
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> (L.)	5	4	5	5
<i>Veronica arvensis</i> (L.)	3	6	8	6
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> (L.)	4	5	4	4
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.)	6	6	6	6
<i>Senecio vernalis</i> W.K.	1	3	3	2
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i> (L)	2	3	5	3
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.)	5	3	5	4
<i>Lamium purpureum</i> (L.)	6	5	6	6
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> (L.)	4	2	5	4
<i>Chenopodium album</i> (L.)	4	6	5	5
/ Perennial broad - leaf				
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> (L.)	0	2	3	2
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.)	2	3	6	4
/ Total	42	48	61	50

- , -
 - , -
 .
 ,
Coleoptera, Diptera, Heteroptera, Homoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Neuroptera, Thysanoptera Orthoptera.
 , -
 ,
 (,
 2 3).

The higher weed infestation in wheat was due to the late sowing of the crop, which required later manual weeding of the experimental plots.

As a result of the monitoring of the entomofauna, insects were identified, as belonging to the orders *Coleoptera, Diptera, Heteroptera, Homoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Neuroptera, Thysanoptera* and *Orthoptera*. The shares of the orders, to which insects caught in years of study, belonged, differed in crops (Table 2 and Table 3).

2.

Table 2. Spreading of insects by order and year in wheat

Order	/number		
	2012	2013	2014
<i>Coleoptera</i>	13	40	120
<i>Heteroptera</i>	39	37	51
<i>Homoptera</i>	169	35	84
<i>Diptera</i>	4	0	13
<i>Hymenoptera</i>	9	8	10
<i>Lepidoptera</i>	1	17	9
<i>Orthoptera</i>	1	4	0
<i>Thysanoptera</i>	0	58	68
/ Total number of insects	236	199	355

3.

Table 2. Spreading of insects by order and year in malting barley

Order	/number		
	2012	2013	2014
<i>Coleoptera</i>	42	34	50
<i>Heteroptera</i>	30	39	35
<i>Homoptera</i>	102	48	65
<i>Diptera</i>	3	1	24
<i>Hymenoptera</i>	60	5	15
<i>Orthoptera</i>	0	3	1
<i>Lepidoptera</i>	0	1	3
<i>Thysanoptera</i>	0	27	56
<i>Neuroptera</i>	0	1	0
/ Total number of insects	237	159	249

355

(Puccinia recondita)

(Erysiphe graminis f. sp. tritici),

(Erysiphe graminis f. sp. hordei).

4)

Josifovich (1956).

2014

249

2013

199

159

The attacks of cicadas, thrips, aphids and caspid grain bugs, average for the period varied depending on the climatic conditions during the years of study. The highest number of insects was found in 2014 – 355 pcs. in wheat, and 249 pcs. – in malting barley, and the lowest – in 2013: 199 – in wheat and 159 pcs. – in malting barley.

During the period of study, insects in density higher than Economic Injury Level were not found in none of the crops. A diversity of entomophaga in the experimental plots was reported – ladybugs, nubises, cantharises, etc., which was explained by the favorable ecological conditions and more precisely – by the availability of trophic factor and the lack of chemical treatments with insecticides.

In wheat development of leaf rust of wheat (*Puccinia recondite*) and powdery mildew of wheat (*Erysiphe graminis f. sp. Tritici*) were observed, and in barley – powdery mildew of barley (*Erysiphe graminis f. sp. Hordei*). Index of attack by phytopathogens (Table 4) was calculated, according to the formula of Mc Kinney according to Josifovich (1956).

4.

, 2012-2014 .

Table 4. Phytopathological evaluation of wheat and malting barley for resistance to diseases of economic importance, 2012-2014

Year	Malting barley Attack Index, % <i>Erysiphe graminis</i>	Wheat Attack Index, % <i>Puccinia recondit</i>	Wheat Attack Index, % <i>Erysiphe graminis</i>
2012	30	30	25
2013	40	45	45
2014	35	30	35

-
2013 .,
40%
Erysiphe graminis f. sp. hordei.
45 % *Puccinia recondit*
Erysiphe graminis f. sp. tritici.

- The highest index for the period was registered in 2013, because of the quantity of the precipitation. In barley – 40% development of *Erysiphe graminis f. sp. hordei*. In wheat – 45% *Puccinia recondit* and *Erysiphe graminis f. sp. tritici*, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

✓
✓
m².
✓
2012-2014
()

- ✓ In the organic field, the species diversity of weeds was influenced by the climatic conditions, soil tillages and sown crops.
- ✓ Differences in weed infestation of crops were found only in terms of weed quantities per m². In that case, the differences in weed infestation were in direct connection with certain biological characteristics of the crop.
- ✓ Species and population density of the useful insects, during the period 2012-2014, in an ecologically justified crop rotation, involving alternating legumes (field beans, forage peas) with cereals (wheat, malting barley) under

Reading, 1991.

9. **bb Saari I Preskot.**

- . 1988, 139-150 .

10. **Josifovich M.** Poljoprivrodna fitopatologija. *Belgrad*, 1956.

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2009. vol. 12, 3, pp. 498-514. (in Bulgarian)

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(*Medicago sativa* L.)

7007 " , " , " " 1,
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Effects of Aminobest foliar fertilizer on the resistance of young alfalfa (*Medicago Sativa* L.) to foliar pathogens

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SUMMARY

2014 .
" .
3, 4, 5, : 1
4
42,50% 70,00%

The study was carried out in 2014 at the experimental field of IASS "Obraztsov chiflik"- Rousse. A field experiment was conducted, with Bulgarian alfalfa varieties Prista 3, Prista 4, Prista 5, Mnogolistna 1 and Roli, created in the Institute, and the French variety – Europe. The study was started after the block method in two variants – control (without fertilization) and foliar fertilization with "Aminobest" in four replications.

The objective was the effects of "Aminobest" on young alfalfa to foliar pathogens to be determined.

The phytopathological assessment was made according to the adopted methods. It was found that in first growing season of alfalfa, average for the treated with Aminobest varieties, the attack index by foliar pathogens decreased compared to the control by 70,00% to 42,50% for yellow leaf blotch (*Pseudopeziza jonesii*

(*Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf), 64,17%
45,8%
(*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*) 65,00%
39,16% (*Uromyces striatus*).

Pseudopeziza jonesii Nannf,
Pseudopeziza medicaginis *Uromyces*
striatus,

Nannf), from 64,17% to 45,% for common leaf spot of alfalfa (*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*) and from 65,00% to 39,16% for rust (*Uromyces striatus*).

Foliar fertilization with Aminobest humate fertilizer had positive effects on the resistance of the tested varieties to *Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf, *Pseudopeziza medicaginis* and *Uromyces striatus*, in all the regrowths during the first year of growing.

- Aminobest product increased the immune defence of plants and the treated young alfalfa stands were characterized with a lower attack index by foliar pathogens compared to the untreated controls. Aminobest has had the highest positive effects on resistance to foliar pathogens in the stands of Prista 3 variety.

3.

Key words: alfalfa, resistance, "Aminobest", attack index

(*Medicago sativa*
L.)
(Vasileva and
Pachev, 2015).

(, 1990).

INTRODUCTION

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) is one of the most important forage crops, which is spread in almost all agro-ecological regions of Bulgaria (Vasileva and Pachev, 2015).

It is perennial forage legume which normally grown four to five years at one place, which contributes to accumulation of infection in soil and strong development of diseases, that reduce yield and lower the quality of alfalfa forage (Enchev, 1990). The productivity of plants is determined to a large extent by providing an optimum diet, suggesting assurance all the nutritious elements in optimal quantity. Fertilization is very

(, 2013;
, 2010;
Kores and Froud Williams, 2002).

- important for the formation of yield and is a major source of energy consumption in agriculture (Vlahova, 2013; Georgieva and Nikolova, 2010; Kores and Froud Williams, 2002).

- The use of leaf fertilizers as an opportunity for additional supply of plants with nutrients, directly involved in the process of photosynthesis via the leaf apparatus, is essential in improving the nutritious regime and quality of production. The introduction of organic fertilizers, holding nutritious and stimulating action, is of great importance. ecause, they are complex fertilizers, containing all the necessary nutrients plus humic acids and enzymes, they have positive effects on plant growth, enhance their resistance to unfavorable factors and increase their productivity (Pavlov and Vulchev, 2013).

(, 2013).

- The objective of the study was the effects of Aminobest on the resistance of young alfalfa to leaf pathogens to be determined.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2014 .

“

5, 3,

1

”-

4,

The study was carried out in 2014 at the experimental field of Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov chiflik”-Rousse, with Bulgarian alfalfa varieties Prista 3, Prista 4, Prista 5, Mnogolistna 1 and Roli, created at the Institute and French variety –

), 4 (.

9,5-12,5%; pH 9,0-13;
 - 11,18% (. . 1,65%
), . . 4,02%
 ; : 0,4-0,75%;
 - : :
 0,1-0,25%; : 0,55-0,7%;
 : 0,2-0,37; :
 0,001-0,003%; :
 0,009-0,013%; : 0,002-0,003%;
 : 0,0003-0,0006%; :
 0,0005-0,0009%; -
 0,001-0,003%; %:
 Ni<0.0005; Cd<0.00003;
 Hg<0.000005; Cr<0.00003;
 Pb<0.0005.

10-15
 cm ,
 250 ml/da.

: 10.06., 07.07., 17.08.
 10.09.2014 .

:
 (*Uromyces striatus*)
 Cobb (CEB, 1988),
 (*Pseudopeziza*
medicaginis)

Europe. The experiment included variants with the utilization of Aminobest organic preparation and controls (untreated variants), in four replications.

Aminobest – the foliar fertilizer used, is a liquid formulation based on amino acids and peptides, humic and fulvic acids. It contains: dry matter: 9,5-12,5%; pH 9,0-13; organic substances – 11,18% (acc. to a test report), including 1,65% humic compounds, 4,02% amino acids; total nitrogen: 0,4-0,75%; micro- and macro elements: phosphorus 0,1-0,25%; potassium 0,55 to 0,7%; sodium 0,2-0,37; calcium 0,001-0,003%; magnesium 0,009-0,013%; copper 0,002-0,003%; zinc 0,0003-0,0006%; manganese 0,0005-0,0009%; iron 0,001-0,003%; heavy metals in %: Ni<0,0005; Cd<0,00003; Hg<0,000005; Cr<0,00003; Pb<0,0005.

Foliar fertilization was done in every regrowth, twice - in 10-15 cm plant height and in bud stage, at a dose of 250 ml/da. The dates of treatment with Aminobest were as follows: 10.06., 07.07., 17.08. and 09.10.2014.

During the year of study three cuttings of the young alfalfa stands were made. Phytopathological evaluation was performed for each regrowth, according to the conventional phytopathological methods: for alfalfa rust (*Uromyces striatus*) according to the scale of Cobb (UEMA, 1988), for common leaf spot of alfalfa (*Pseudopeziza*

(1990)
(Pseudopeziza jonesii Nannf.)
 ,
 .
 (Uromyces striatus),
(Pseudopeziza
medicaginis)
(Pseudopeziza jonesii Nannf.)
 , 20
 .
 0 9,
 1 –
 10%, 3 –
 25 %, 5 – 50%,
 7 – 50 75 %
 9
 – 75 %
 ,
 (%) (
)
 Mc Kinney.

medicaginis) after Blazhev and Nikolova (1990) and for yellow leaf blotch (*Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf.) according to 5-point grading scale, modified at the Institute.

To determine the attack of foliar pathogens – alfalfa rust (*Uromyces striatus*), common leaf spot (*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*) and yellow leaf blotch (*Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf.), 10 samples, including 20 plants randomly selected of each variety from the control and the variants with foliar fertilization, were processed.

A disease index scale from 0 to 9 for the evaluation of degree of attack was used: score 0 corresponds to plants without symptoms (healthy plants), score 1 – plants with single spots or affected leaf area to 10%, score 3 – affected leaf area to 25%, score 5 – affected leaf area up to 50%, score 7 – affected leaf area 50 to 75% and 9 – when the plants are strongly infected (affected leaf area more than 75%). Based on the degree of infection, the index of attack (index of disease progression) was calculated, according to the formula of Mc Kinney for every regrowth and average for the year.

To characterize the weather conditions, precipitation data and average monthly air temperatures were used from the meteorological station of the Institute.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The meteorological conditions during the year of study were relatively favorable for the growth and development of young alfalfa (Figure 1).

(1).

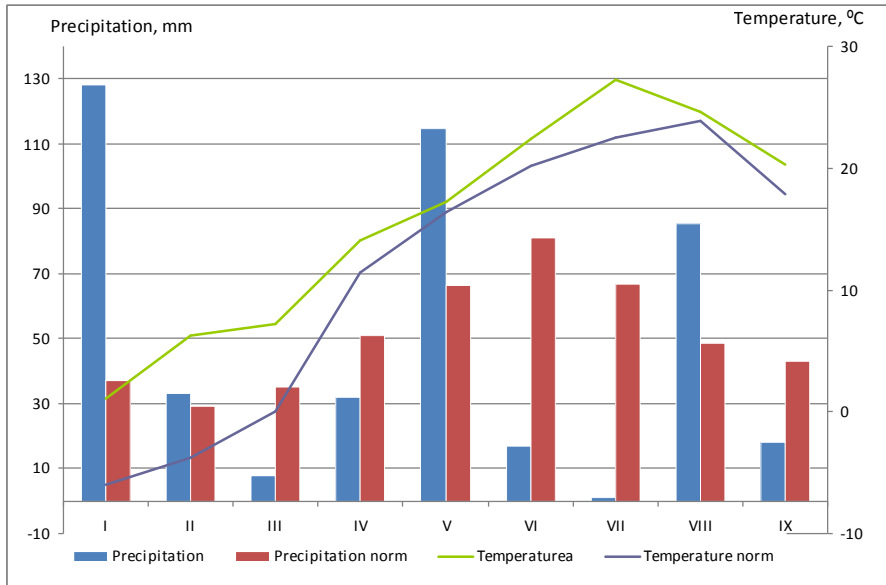


Fig. 1. Precipitation, amount of precipitation and air temperature sums for the 2014

100 mm

In the autumn-winter period extremely low temperatures were not observed, and the precipitation was slightly above the long-term norm for the region. The rich autumn-winter soil moisture supply ensured uniform germination and good stand density of the alfalfa.

The spring was characterized with precipitation and temperatures around the norm. Exception was the precipitation in May, exceeding by 100 mm the long-term norm. The temperatures and amount of precipitation were

,
 .
 ,
 ,
 .
 (Pseudopeziza jonesii
 Nannf.)
 (Pseudopeziza medicaginis)
 (Uromyces striatus),
 .
 ,
 ,
 ,
 5, 73% 4
 (74%
 1). , 30% 55%.
 3 (70%
 8%

- within the norm, but the precipitation was irregularly distributed during the next months of the young alfalfa growth.

- New establish alfalfa stand was able to manifest its productive ability, forming 3 r growths, but the over-moisture at stated periods of time, created conditions for the development of fungal diseases.

- During the period of study, damages of yellow leaf blotch of alfalfa (*Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf.) and common leaf spot of alfalfa (*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*) (*Uromyces striatus*) were observed in all the regrowths of the new alfalfa stands except rust (*Uromyces striatus*), that developed only in second and third regrowth.

- On the leaves and stems of plants, oblong, yellow to orange or dark brown to black spots were formed.

- The results obtained for damages of yellow leaf blotch showed that in the controls in the first regrowth Prista 3 and Prista 4 varieties were heavily infested, leaf area being affected 73% and 74%, respectively (Table 1). The values reported for the attack index in treated with Aminobest stands of studied varieties were 30% and 55%, respectively. Strong positive effect of product application were found in Prista 3 variety (70% affected leaf area for the control and 8% – in treated stand.

1.

Pseudopeziza jonesii Nannf

, %

Table 1. Index of attack by *Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf. of alfalfa varieties in regrowths and mean for the first growing year, %

Varieties	<i>Pseudopeziza jonesii</i>							
	/ ontrol				/ Aminobest			
	1	2	3	Mean	1	2	3	Mean
3/Prista 3	70%	78%	77%	75%	8%	10%	12%	10%
4/Prista 4	73%	78%	74%	75%	30%	40%	35%	35%
5/Prista 5	74%	84%	82%	80%	55%	75%	65%	65%
Mnogolistna 1	60%	75%	75%	70%	45%	45%	45%	45%
/Roli	50%	70%	60%	60%	40%	55%	55%	50%
/Evropa	50%	70%	60%	60%	45%	50%	55%	50%
/Mean	62,83%	75,83%	71,33%	70,00%	37,16%	45,83%	44,50%	42,50%

Nannf.),

(Pseudopeziza jonesii

The attack index by the pathogen (*Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf.), as in treated variants so and in the respective controls was the highest in the second regrowth. The results showed that the trend of strong positive effects of the product in Prista 3 variety remained. The data for the third undergrowth showed that the strongest attack was again in Prista 5 variety (82% for control and 65% when foliar fertilization applied).

(82%

65%
).*jonesii*,*Pseudopeziza*

Average for the first growing season, the values of index of attack by *Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf., in stands of all studied varieties with foliar fertilization applied were lower than those of the respective controls. The lowest influence of Aminobest product on the resistance of the pathogen, in all r growths and average for the first growing season was registered in Roli and Europe varieties, that have shown the lowest susceptibility to *Pseudopeziza jonesii*.

2.

Pseudopeziza medicaginis

Table 2. Index of attack by *Pseudopeziza medicaginis* of alfalfa varieties in regrowths and mean for the first growing year, %

Varieties	<i>Pseudopeziza medicaginis</i>							
	/ ontrol			Mean	/ Aminobest			Mean
	1	2	3		1	2	3	
	regrowth	regrowth	regrowth		regrowth	regrowth	regrowth	
3/Prista 3	55%	65%	75%	65%	10%	13%	7%	10%
4/Prista 4	72%	75%	78%	75%	50%	60%	55%	55%
5/Prista 5	70%	73%	67%	70%	55%	75%	65%	65%
Mnogolistna 1	40%	55%	55%	50%	35%	55%	45%	45%
/ Roli	55%	65%	75%	65%	60%	45%	45%	50%
/Evropa	50%	60%	70%	60%	65%	40%	45%	50%
/Mean	57,00%	65,50%	70,00%	64,17%	45,83%	48,00%	43,66%	45,83%

(*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*)

1 (40% – , 55% –) (, 55% – 2).

7%.

Pseudopeziza medicaginis,

Regarding the attack of common leaf spot of alfalfa (*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*) it was obvious of the results obtained, that in the control variants, in all regrowths, the lowest values of the index of attack by common leaf spot have been found in Mnogolistna 1 variety (40% – the first regrowth, 55% – the second, 55% – the third) (Table 2). In the variants with application of Aminobest product, the pathogen infestation was the lowest in Prista 3 variety, in all the three r growths, 10%, 13% and 7%, respectively.

The values reported for the index of attack by *Pseudopeziza medicaginis* pathogen, as in the treated variants so and in respective controls, were again the highest in the second r growth.

The analyses of the results showed that treatment with Aminobest had a positive impact on new establish alfalfa stand,

Pseudopeziza medicaginis.

3,
,
10% 65%
4 5 -
a
(*Uromyces striatus*)
3).

- resulting in increased resistance of
- all varieties to *Pseudopeziza medicaginis*.

- The best effects of the application
- of the product was reported for
- Prista 3 variety, where the index of
- attack decreased from 65% for the
- control, to 10% for the treated
- variant. Data about all r growths
- and average for the vegetation,
- characterized Prista 4 and Prista 5
- varieties, as the most susceptible
- to the pathogen.

- The results about the
- phytopathological evaluation of the
- young alfalfa stands showed
- positive effect of Aminobest
- product on resistance to rust
- (*Uromyces striatus*) of all varieties
- included in the study (Table 3).

3. *Uromyces striatus*, %

Table 3. Index of attack by *Uromyces striatus* of alfalfa varieties in regrowths and mean for the first growing year, %

Varieties/	<i>Uromyces striatus</i>							
	/ ontrol				/ Aminobest			
	1 regrowth	2 regrowth	3 regrowth	Mean	1 regrowth	2 regrowth	3 regrowth	Mean
3/Prista 3	-	65%	65%	65%	-	12%	8%	10%
4/Prista 4	-	78%	72%	75%	-	37%	33%	35%
5/Prista 5	-	50%	50%	50%	-	48%	42%	45%
Mnogolistna 1	-	50%	50%	50%	-	50%	40%	45%
/Roli	-	77%	63%	70%	-	50%	50%	50%
/Evropa	-	80%	80%	80%	-	54%	48%	50%
/Mean	-	66,67%	63,33%	65,00%	-	48,832%	36,83%	39,16%

In the first regrowth the pathogen did not developed. In control variants, in the second and third regrowths, a strong infestation occurred in Europe

(80%),
 5
 1 (50%). -
 -
 3, 12%
 8% ,
 4, ,
 37% 33%. ,
 ,
 - ,
 ,
 .
 ,
 70,00% 42,50%
Pseudopeziza jonesii Nannf,
 64,17% 45,83%
Pseudopeziza medicaginis
 65,00% 39,16% *Uromyces*
striatus (1, 2, 3).

variety (80% leaf area affected) and weak - in Prista 5 and Mnogolistna 1 varieties (50%). In stands with foliar fertilization applied with Aminobest the lowest attack index was found in Prista 3 variety, 12% in the second r growth and 8% - in third, respectively, followed by Prista 4, 37% and 33%, respectively.

The observed disease symptoms were indicative that the treated variants reacted to varying degrees, but all were higher resistant to the pathogen, compared to the untreated variants.

During the first growing season average for the alfalfa varieties, treated with Aminobest, the attack index by foliar pathogens decreased, compared to the control from 70,00% to 42,50% for *Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf, from 64,17% to 45,83% for *Pseudopeziza medicaginis* and 65,00% to 39,16% for *Uromyces striatus* (Table 1, 2, 3).

Summarizing the results obtained it could be concluded that the application of Aminobest product had positive effects on the resistance of young alfalfa stands to the pathogens, object of the study.

CONCLUSIONS

Foliar fertilization with Aminobest had positive effects on the resistance of tested varieties to yellow leaf spot (*Pseudopeziza*

(*Pseudopeziza jonesii* Nannf),
(*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*)
(*Uromyces striatus*),

jonesii Nannf), common leaf spot (*Pseudopeziza medicaginis*) and rust (*Uromyces striatus*) in all regrowths during the first year of alfalfa growing.

Aminobest product increased the immune defence of plants, and treated young alfalfa stands were characterized with a lower index of attack by foliar pathogens, compared to untreated controls.

Aminobest had the highest positive effects on the resistance to foliar pathogens in the stands of Prista 3 variety.

3.

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Phytosociological investigations on Edirne grasslands

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SUMMARY

Phytosociological investigations were carried out in different pastures in the region of Edirne. So, 5 pastures in four provinces worked in the study. Braun–Blanquet method is used. Determined communities are as follows according to the rules of "International Plant the Nomenclature Code". Class: Molinio-Arrhenatheretea; Order: Arrhenatheretalia; Alliance: Lolio-Cynosuretum; 1. Union: Thymo-Festucetum, 2. Union: Lolio-Cynosuretum.

Key words: grasslands, species, phytosociological properties

INTRODUCTION

Trakya Region has about 23485 km². The share of meadows and pastures in agricultural region are large. The total area of grassland vegetation in the area is around 129268 hectares and have been destroyed to a large extent (Altın & Tuna, 2001).

.
 ,
 ,
 , 7.3%
 ,
 ,
 (Altın et al., 1997).

2001). Pastures in the region have been used irresponsibly for over the years. By reasons such as

- continuous grazing without regard
- to forest management principles,
- no making breeding, pasture transformation to fields, vegetation and yields have fallen significantly impaired. In the area, animal fodder needs of 7.3% in the total grassland area are also covered by the forage crops (Altın et al., 1997). Degraded pasture could be won again by improvement works.

-
 - Some preliminary work must be done before the election of successful breeding methods.

-
 - The most important studies are determination of native plant species, and their agronomic traits and lifestyles alongside the development biology of these plants.

- Targets of this study are determining the pasture plant species in the studied areas and in addition, their phytosociological features. Thus, important species that can be utilized in future field studies in their natural conditions and as well as reproduction studies in their natural conditions will be understood considerably.

-
 - In earlier studies performed in the area these plants identified and their herborized was prepared (Determination of Forage Crops and Investigation of cultural

(TAGEM/TA/00/01/01/001).

facilities of meadow Forage Crops found in Edirne (TAGEM/TA/00/01/01/001).

- In this study the ability of create communities of these plants, namely their Phytosociological properties were investigated.
- Findings from the project will be used in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural pasture improvement and management studies.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In present study, plants collected from localities with meteorological data are given in Table 1. In addition, satellite images of some localities are below (Figure 1-3).

(1-3).

1.

Table 1. Meteorological data on the working station in Edirne

Stations	altitude (m)	P (mm)	M (°C)	m (°C)	S	Rainfall	/Bioclim te
Enez-Kılıçköy	24	370,4	36,1	-3,7	53,1	- - - S-W-A-S	Dry and very hot summer Mediterranean climate variant
Meriç-Nasuhbey	46	364,2	34,1	-4,2	32,5	- - - S-W-A-S	"
Lalapa a-Hamzabeyli	391	321,1	29,7	-4,1	30,2	- - - S-W-A-S	"
Küçünlü	328	274,8	28,1	-3,9	36,1	- - - S-W-A-S	"
Sinanköy-Kale	181	421,2	35,4	-4,2	31,4	- - - S-W-A-S	"

P (mm): ; **M (°C):** - ; **S:** - ; **m (°C):** -

(S= PE/M); : , : ; : ; :

P (mm): annual rainfall; **M (°C):** The highest temperature of the warmest month; **m (°C):** the lowest temperature of the coldest month; **S:** Emberger'in kuraklık indisi (S= PE/M); **S:** Spring, **W:** Winter; **A:** Autumn; **S:** summer

Emberger
Emberger

Thornthwaite.

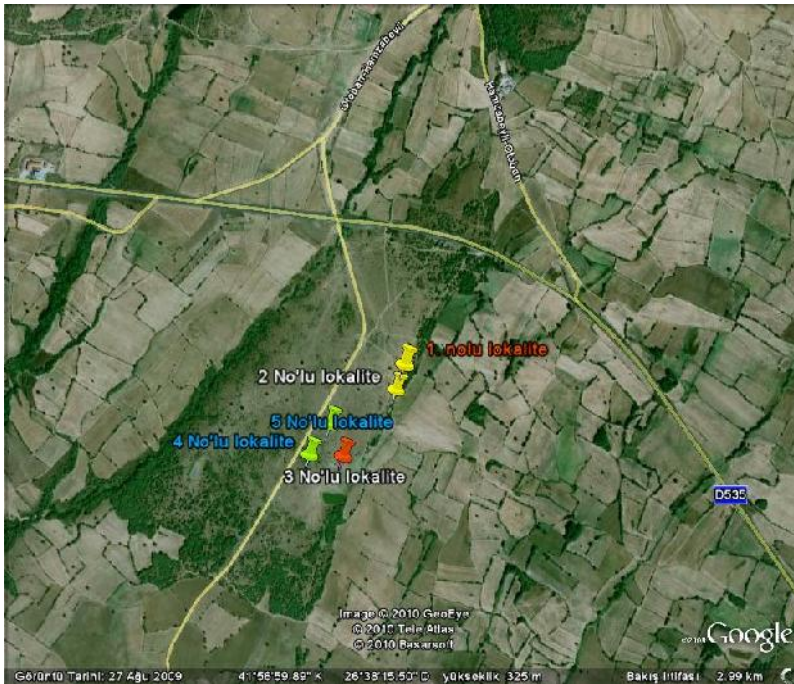
To determine the climate of the region, data received from General Directorate of Meteorology Jobs were evaluated according to Emberger and Thornthwaite's methods. Emberger, the floors of the Mediterranean climate and to assess the overall degree of drought, applied the following formula.

$$Q = \frac{2000P}{M^2 - m^2}$$

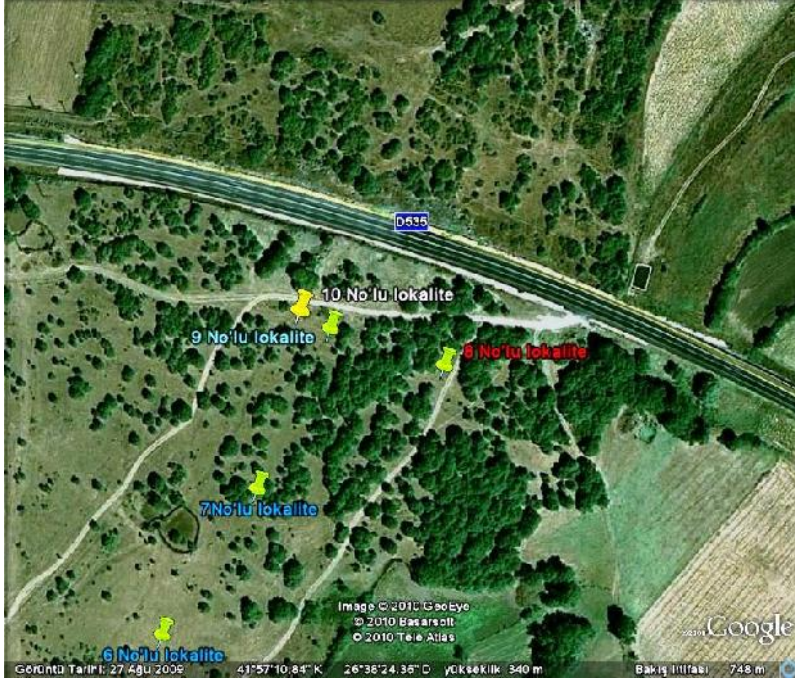
Q
, P –
M –

- where Q precipitation temperature precedent, P annual rainfall (mm), M hottest month of the average maximum temperature and m represents the average minimum temperature in the coldest month. In determining the arid environment Emberger method also is used.

Emberger.



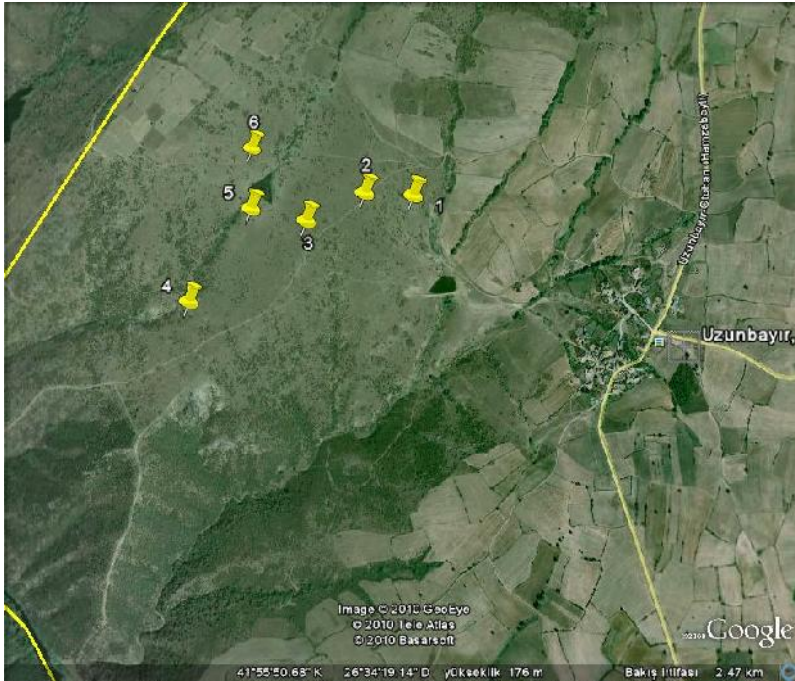
1.
1-5
Fig. 1. Bird's-eye view of localities No. 1-5 Hamzabeyli



. 2.

6-10

Fig. 2. Bird's-eye view of localities No. 6-10 Hamzabeyli



. 3.

1-6

Fig. 3 Bird's-eye view of localities No. 1-6 Küçünlü

Braun-Blanquet (1964).
 " (3
)" (Weber et al., 2000).
 20
 ,
 .
 10m x 10m (100 m²).
 (Davis et al., 1965-1985; Brummitt
 & Powell, 1992).
 Barkman et al. (1964).
 Davis et al.
 (1965-1985), Zohary (1973)
 Donner (1990),
 Raunkiaer (1934), Ellenberg
 Mueller-Dombois (1967).

- Vegetation analysis and
 classifications as unity were
 - performed according to the the
 classical Braun-Blanquet method
 (1964). Vegetations are classified
 into associations.
 - The determination of unity
 - were based on "International Code
 of Nomenclature Phytosociological
 (3rd edition)" (Weber et al., 2000).
 - In each pasture, 20 exemplary
 areas were selected and works
 were performed on this area. The
 size of the exemplary area was
 10m x 10m (100 m²). Taxa and
 Syntaxa in the vegetation table
 - were tested and corrected in
 accordance with relevant sources
 (Davis et al., 1965-1985; Brummitt
 & Powell, 1992). Covering data of
 taxa were performed accordingly
 with Barkman et al. (1964).
 - Distribution of taxa were
 determined by using Davis et al.
 (1965-1985), Zohary (1973) and
 Donner (1990), while their life
 forms were found Raunkiaer
 (1934), Ellenberg and Mueller-
 Dombois (1967).

: **Molinio-Arrhenatheretea**
Tx. Braun-Blanq.
 ,
 ,
 (Braun-Blanquet, 1951).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Class: Molinio-Arrhenatheretea
Tx. Braun-Blanq.

Syntaxonomic groups of this
 classis, found densely in
 Mediterranean Europe and Balkans.
 In addition, this class also includes
 - some plants in Irano-Turanian
 phytogeographic regions (Braun-
 Blanquet, 1951).

: Arrhenatheretalia:
 ,
 .
Thymo-Festucetum:
 /
 (
 2).
 -
 ,
 .
Anthemis tinctoria, Orchis laxiflora,
Astragalus hamosus, Briza major,
Avena fatua, Lotus corniculatus,
Bromus japonicus, Spargularia
media, Capsella bursa-pastoris, -
 , -
 Williams Varley (1967).

Lolio-Cynosuretum:
 .
 Hamzabeyli-Lalapa a.
 960-980 m
 (Williams &
 Varley). *Lolium perene, Vicia*
sativa, Trachynia distachya,
Trifolium arvense, Trifolium
sylvaticum

Order: Arrhenatheretalia: This order includes meadows and pastures plants form Southern Europe and Central Asia and creates homogeneous and large communities.

Thymo-Festucetum union:
 Union spreads in pasture/meadows in Central Anatolia and the Balkans (Table 2). The union were seen in Enez-Kılıçköy and Meric Nasuhbey common homogeneous. *Anthemis tinctoria, Orchis laxiflora, Astragalus hamosus, Briza major, Avena fatua, Lotus corniculatus, Bromus japonicus, Spargularia media, Capsella bursa-pastoris* which is located in the floristic composition of the union, identified particularly in the UK by Williams and Varley (1967).

Lolio-Cynosuretum Union:
 is a type of alliance. The union was detected in Hamzabeyli-Lalapa a. The same association was found between alt. 960-980 m in the North of England (Williams & Varley). *Lolium perene, Vicia sativa, Trachynia distachya, Trifolium arvense, Trifolium sylvaticum* are dominant taxa of the alliance.

As a result; vegetation, there is a form of plant species adapted to similar living conditions on any geographic region. Species of plants in relations with each other, as well as environmental factors play an important role in creating unity.

2:

Table 2: Vegetation analyzes of taxa were detected in Edirne working stations

	Enez-Kılıçköy					Meriç-Nasuhbey					Lalapa a-Hamzabeyli										Küçünlü					Sinanköy-Kal							spreading**	Life form***
	65	76	89	90	67	89	56	69	70	67	87	98	65	93	100	56	98	75	87	67	90	93	97	99	100	79	85	100	100	86	75	100		
/covering (%)*	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		
Exemplary field width (m ²)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
/Area no	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Thymo-Festucetuunion																																		
Thymus longicaulis	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	1m	.	2a	.	.	+	.	+	+	.	.	+	1	1m	.	1m	.	ES /M	NP
Achillea setacea	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	.	.	1m	2a	.	+	+	.	.	1	1m	2a	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	IT/M	H	
Aegilops speltoides	.	.	.	+	1	.	1	1	1	1m	2a	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	2b	.	.	.	.	.	.	1m	.	ES /M	H
Bidens tripartita	.	.	.	.	1m	2	1	.	.	+	1m	1	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	+	1m	1m	IT/M	NP
Scorzonera parviflora	.	.	.	.	2b	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	IT/M	NP	
Anthemis pseudocotula	1	2a	.	1m	+	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	ES /M	NP	
Anthemis tinctoria	2a	.	2b	4	3	2a	2a	3	2b	.	1m	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IT/M	NP	
Orchis laxiflora	1	2b	3	1m	+	2b	2b	1m	1m	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1m	1m	+	+	.	.	+	1m	+	IT/M	NP
Astragalus hamosus	1m	.	.	1m	.	1	+	1	2b	1m	1	1	1	.	+	+	+	+	1m	.	ES /M	T	
Briza major	+	2a	.	3	.	1	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	ES /M	
Avena fatua	3	2	4	3	5	2	2	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	ES /M	
Lotus corniculatus	2	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	.	.	.	1	2a	.	.	1m	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	COS	H
Bromus japonicus	2	.	.	1m	.	1	2	3	2	.	1	.	.	1	.	2a	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	COS	N
Spergularia media	3	.	2a	.	.	1	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1a	2	.	.	+	+	+	.	ES /M	Th
Capsella bursa pastoris	1	2	2b	.	1m	2	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	COS	NP
Cardaria draba subsp. draba	1	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	2a	.	.	.	.	.	.	2a	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	ES /M	Th
Centaurea cyanus	1	.	1m	1	1b	+	+	+	.	ES /M	H	
Trifolium spumosum	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2a	1b	.	.	1b	.	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	ES /M	NP
Cerastium pumilum	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	2b	2a	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	COS	NP
Onobrychis armena	1	.	1m	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1b	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1a	.	1b	.	ES /M	NP
Cirsium italicum	1	1m	1m	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1b	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1b	.	+	COS	Th
Convolvulus arvensis	1	.	.	1m	.	1	+	COS	H	
Sinapis arvensis	1	1	.	.	.	1	1m	1m	.	COS	Th
Sanguisorba minor subsp. muricata	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	1m	+	ES /M	Th	
Echium italicum	2	.	1	1m	+	+	IT/M	NP	
Eryngium campestre	.	1m	.	1	.	1	1	1	1	+	+	IT/M	Th	
Quercus pubescens	+	IT/M	Th
Euphorbia paralias	1	+	IT/M	H
Euphorbia peplis	2	1m	.	.	.	+	.	.	1m	.	.	1m	.	.	1m	.	.	1m	.	+	IT/M	NP	
Festuca valesiaca	1	+	ES /M	Th
Geranium dissectum	2	2a	.	.	.	+	1	+	COS	G	
Ranunculus muricatus	1	1	1m	+	IT/M	NP
Hordeum murinum	1	2	1m	1m	+	COS	H
Koeleria cristata	1	1a	+	COS	G
Lathyrus cicera	1	2	.	.	1m	1m	.	.	2a	+	ES /M	G
Linum usitatissimum	1	2b	+	IT/M	H
Thymus praecox	1	2b	+	COS	NP
Lupinus angustifolius	1	1m	+	IT/M	Ch
Paliurus spina-christii	1	+	COS	Ch
Marrubium peregrinum	1	1m	1	1	1	+	IT /M	G
Matricharia chamomilla	1	2	+	1m	1m	+	ES /M	G

CONCLUSIONS

Artificial pasture plant is a laborious and costly process. In particular plant species used in the mixture is usually imported from abroad. It is therefore quite cost increases in artificial pasture plants. The data obtained from this study will make great contributions to the identification of methods to be applied in the breeding pasture, and the identification of plant species mixed in terms of both technical and economic points.

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