

Festuca

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Breeding Evaluation of Accessions from Genus *Festuca* by Forage Productivity

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SUMMARY

The aim of the study is breeding evaluation of fescue accessions by forage dry matter productivity and ecological stability. During the period 2017-2019, in Institute of Forage Crops - Pleven, a collection of fescue was studied in field non-irrigated conditions on leached black soil, by block method, with a total of 8 accessions, including 4 varieties, 1 breeding population and 3 ecotypes, originated from Bulgaria, Romania and Belgium. According to the species – 3 accessions are tall fescue (*Festuca arundinaceae* Schreb.); 3 – red (*Festuca rubra* L.) and 2 – meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis* Huds.), with individually arranged plants, by seedlings at a distance of 50/50 cm. Each accession is represented by 25 individual plants. Dry mass productivity (g) was established and average, minimum, maximum values, standard deviations and variation coefficients (CV,%) on growths and years, total average for the collection were presented. Francis and Kannenberg (1978) method was used with average dry mass productivity parameters (g) and average variation coefficient (CV, %) to

SPSS 25

(6,5,6)

739,10 g

263,42 g

48,09 g,

()

- select accessions exceeding the average values for the collection in the three consecutive years. A cluster analysis was performed using SPSS 25 and the unidirectionality of the results was observed by the two evaluation methods. It has been established that the forage productivity vary strongly depending on the genotype – species, variety or ecotype, ploidy level, seasonal variations (growths and years), as well as growing conditions. The highest average annual and total dry mass productivity and ecological stability for the three years is taken into account in the tall fescue accessions: ecotype IRGR – Sadovo and variety Albena, which formed the highest regrowths number per year (6,5,6) and total for the period (17). Accessions with the highest total dry mass productivity and ecological stability for the three years by the species are: from tall fescue ecotype IRGR - Sadovo - 739,10 g and variety Albena - 687,55 g; from meadow fescue – tetraploid breeding population Merifest T - 263,42 g and from red fescue – ecotypes Atoluka - 54,84 g and Ravnogor - 48,09 g, exciding average value for the each species.

Key words: tall, meadow and red fescue, accessions; forage dry matter productivity; variation coefficient; cluster analyses

INTRODUCTION

- Plant genetic resources (PGR) are indispensable for any breeding effort. The choice of this initial material by the complex study is crucial for the programme because breeding is a long-lasting process, and many years of selection and recombination are needed before success can be assessed and finally, a new variety can be created. PGR are required to extend variability.

- Four major categories of PGR have potential implications for fodder and

ornamental grasses: wild relatives; ecotypes, local populations raised by farmers; varieties (Boller and Greene, 2010). Perennial grasses are essential components of natural and sown grasslands. Using them as a source of forage or for sports fields and landscaping determines their multifunctional role and importance (Katova, 2005, 2016).

Global warming is a strong argument for the search for species with increased adaptability and high productive potential, such as those of the *Festuca* genus. In terms of adaptability, tolerance to acidic soils and the possibility of long-term use of meadow (*Festuca pratensis*) and tall (*Festuca arundinacea*) fescue are of particular interest to modern agriculture with a view to: preserving the natural status of meadows and pastures and their economic importance as hay and forage crops and pasture cultivation.

Festuca pratensis is abundant in mountain meadow habitats with average altitudes, and *F. arundinacea* is observed in flat hilly areas (Petrova, 2019). Fescues are very diverse grasses which are important components of natural, permanent, and intensively managed grasslands, lawns, and turfs, and are used for conservation purposes. Fescue (*Festuca* spp.) species can be divided into two groups; the broad-leaved fescues meadow fescue (*F. pratensis* Huds.) and tall fescue (*F. arundinacea* Schreb.), and the fine-leaved fescues (Rognli et al., 2010). Fine fescues are grouped into *Festuca rubra* (red fescue) and *Festuca ovina* (sheep fescue) complexes or aggregates. The *F. ovina* group includes the hard fescue, sheep fescue, and blue fescues. The genus *Festuca* L. is distributed mostly in the temperate zones of both hemispheres; most abundant all around the Northern Hemisphere (Jenkin 1959).

Tall fescue (*Fa*) is a perennial grass species with a wide distribution over

(Cernoch et al., 2003).

(Grossi et al., 2004). *F. arundinacea*

(Kopecký et al., 2009).

1983). (Seal,

Pb (King, 1981; Qu et al., 2003, Soleimani et al., 2009, Li et al., 2017).

(Easton, 1994).

(N),

450 mm (Buckner, 1985).

20% (Lp) - Fa

60% (Lp) - Fa

(Cougnon, 2013).

Fa

(Gibson Newman, 2001), *a* (bivalent forming) allohexaploid

(2n = 6x = 42)

- Europe, North-West Africa, and temperate areas of Asia. It has also been introduced into North America and is now grown commercially on a considerable acreage (Cernoch et al., 2003). Tall fescue is widely grown for forage, both as a monoculture and in mixture with other grasses. Its turf use has increased dramatically in recent decades (Grossi et al., 2004). *F. arundinacea* is known for its ability to survive summer drought, and, relative to other grasses, it is well adapted to low winter temperatures (Kopecký et al., 2009).

Tall fescue is a hexaploid outcrossing species with a large genome size (Seal, 1983). As a long-lived perennial bunchgrass species, tall fescue is tolerant to various abiotic stresses, and can grow vigorously in a wide range of soil and climatic conditions. More interestingly, tall fescue can tolerate and accumulate substantial amount of heavy metals, especially Pb (King, 1981; Qu et al. 2003, Soleimani et al., 2009, Li et al., 2017). Tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.) is a widely adapted Eurasian grass species. Natural populations are found from north Africa to northern Europe, in sites varying from arid to very wet (Easton, 1994). Tall fescue prefers and responds to a high level of nitrogen (N) fertility, but is found on impoverished soils. The limits of its natural range are set by severe cold and by rainfall below 450 mm/year (Buckner, 1985). It was found for the Belgian conditions that Fa was on average 20% higher yielding than perennial ryegrass (Lp) under favourable growing conditions. Under drought growing conditions, he found even larger yield benefits for Fa: in years with severe drought periods, the annual yield of Fa was up to 60 % higher compared to Lp (Cougnon, 2013). The slow establishment of Fa, results in a low yield in the first production season. Fa is a polyploid species (Gibson and Newman, 2001), *a* (bivalent forming) allohexaploid (2n = 6x = 42 chromosomes) (Berg et al.

(Berg et al., 1979).	-	1979). The progenitor species are meadow fescue <i>F. pratensis</i> Huds. ($2n = 2x = 14$) and <i>F. glaucescens</i> Hegetschw. & Heer. ($2n = 4x = 28$). The identification of these progenitors has been confirmed using DNA restriction fragment length polymorphisms (Xu et al., 1992).
<i>F. pratensis</i>	-	
Huds. ($2n = 2x = 14$)	-	
<i>F. glaucescens</i>	-	
Hegetschw. & Heer. ($2n = 4x = 28$).	-	
(Xu et al., 1992).	-	Tall fescue is regarded as a secondary forage species in North-West Europe, it can be used both for cutting as for grazing (Frame, 1992). Only 1800 t of the <i>circa</i> 20000 t of forage grass seed sold annually in France is Fa (average 2007-2009) (GNIS, 2013).
1992).	1800 t	(Frame, 20000 t
2007-2009 . (GNIS, 2013).	2011	23714 t
2087 t		
(Haquin,2012).	2013	106
203	39	Fa
(GEVES, 2013);		Fa
(Pannecoucq, 2013; NIAB, 2013).		
	12 - 19	
(Buckner and Bush, 1979; Bouton, 2007).		Fa
1994).		(Easton et al.,
et al., 2012).	Fa	(Reheul
(IPCC, 2007).		
(Norris, 1982; Frame, 1992),		
Dg, Fa <i>Festulolium</i> ,		
(Gilliland et al., 2010; Graiss et al., 2011; Mosimann et al., 2010; Surrault		

et al., 2007). - Surrault et al., 2007). Fa is generally regarded as the most drought resistant and highest yielding of these species (Gilliland et al., 2010) with the yield of Fa (13.2 t ha⁻¹) was significantly higher than that of Fp (11.8 t ha⁻¹), Dg (12.3 t ha⁻¹) and Lp2 (11.8 t ha⁻¹). The high N level of the study of Baert et al. (2012), tall fescue yielded 20 % more relative to the average yield of an intermediate and an early Lp variety.

(Gilliland et al., 2010) Fa (13,2 t ha⁻¹), Fp (11,8 t ha⁻¹), Dg (12,3 t ha⁻¹) Lp2 (11,8 t ha⁻¹). N Baert et al. (2012), 20% Lp. (*F. pratensis* Huds.) Meadow fescue (*F. pratensis* Huds.) is a forage grass of high quality and yield potential considered native to Europe and Eurasia (Hultén and Fries, 1986). In Europe it is distributed throughout the climatic regions of oceanic northwest Europe and the transitional oceanic/continental zone of central Europe (Borrill et al., 1976). Meadow fescue constitutes a significant component of species-rich permanent pastures and hay fields in alpine regions and in eastern Europe. It was probably introduced to Scandinavia from Europe and West Asia, and has since become naturalized, and it was also introduced to North America, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

(Hultén and Fries, 1986), (Borrill et al., 1976). - Fine fescues are a group of cool season perennial grasses that are commercially and agronomically valued for forage, turf, landscape, and ornamental purposes. Fine fescues have very fine and narrow leaves that minimize the water loss through transpiration and give them good drought tolerance. Some of the important fine fescues include red fescue, Chewings fescue, sheep fescue, hard fescue, and blue fescue among many other species. Fine fescues tolerate shade, drought, low pH (5.5–6.5), and low soil fertility (Beard, 1973; Hanson et al., 1969; Newell and Gooding, 1990; Tegg and Lane, 2004), and require little to no additional inputs of fertilizer or supplemental irrigation (Ruemmele et al., 1995).

/ (Grossi et al., 2004). (5,5–6,5) (Beard, 1973; Hanson et al., 1969; Newell and Gooding, 1990; Tegg and Lane, 2004)

(Ruemmele et al., 1995). These grasses are predominantly used in the turf industry owing to their low maintenance and other agronomic

6% (Humphreys, 1999; Wilkins and Humphreys, 2003),

(Boller and Greene, 2010).

(Fjellheim and Rognli, 2005; Hopkins et al., 2007).

1993 . (Katova, 2016)

- features. In their native habitats, that include cool season regions of Europe, Asia, and North America, fine fescues occur on permanent grasslands used for forage.

Gains made in biomass yield of forage crops vary widely among regions and species, generally ranging from about 1 to 6% per decade (Humphreys, 1999; Wilkins and Humphreys, 2003) but gains may be dependent on environment and management.

- For those species in which spaced-plant and sward-plot biomass yields have a positive genetic correlation, phenotypic selection of spaced plants can be used to effectively increase biomass yield of sward plots. Improved seasonal distribution of biomass yield has long been a goal of forage breeders and agronomists.

- Extension of the growing season, either by early-spring growth or late fall growth, or more uniform production throughout the growing season has been the most common target. For cool-season forages, particularly grasses, this results in a “summer slump” in which biomass production is significantly reduced during the warmest period of summer, often to the point of dormancy for some species (Boller and Greene, 2010).

- The many varieties of perennial grasses tested so far in our country are in most cases highly productive, but with poor adaptability to our conditions, they are not durable and are not suitable for direct introduction into production.

Ecotype selection is the earliest method for creating varieties of fescue and is still considered an important breeding method (Fjellheim and Rognli, 2005; Hopkins et al., 2007). In Bulgaria, in the last half-century, research has been carried out with tall fescue and it was established in 1993 (Katova, 2016) and registered in the

2020 . 1 - - Official variety list of the country and for 2020 one variety of IFC - Pleven - Albena.

- The aim is to study forage productivity of fescue accessions by evaluation of the average arithmetic values of dry mass productivity and variation by regrowths (cuts) and years and to select the most productive and stable accessions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2017-2019 . - 8 During the period 2017-2019 at the Institute of Forage Crops - Pleven in field experiment a collection of 8 accessions of fescue (*Festuca* spp.) was studied on soil type of leached chernozem, under no - irrigation conditions, by block method, including 4 varieties, 1 breeding population and 3 ecotypes originating in Bulgaria, Romania and Belgium (Table 1).

1.

Table 1. Collection nursery with fescue accessions

Species, Accession	Type	Ploidy	Origin
F.ar. Albena	variety	6n	BG
F.ar. Adela	variety	6n	RO
F. ar. IRGR - Sadovo	e ecotype	6n	BG
F.pr. Transilvan	variety	2n	RO
F.pr. Merifest T(F.pr.7)	. breeding population	4n	BG-BE
F.r. Capriora	variety	6n	RO
F.r. Ravnogor	e ecotype	6n	BG
F.r. Atoluka	e ecotype	6n	BG

3 By species composition there are 3 accessions of tall (*Festuca arundinaceae* Schreb. - F.ar.) - hexaploid; 3 - red (*Festuca rubra* L. - F.r.) - hexaploid and 2 - meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis* Huds. - F.pr.), incl. 1 diploid and 1 tetraploid, with individually arranged plants, by seedlings at a distance of 50/50cm. Each accession is represented by 25 individual plants.

Dry mass productivity data are characterized by: limit values (min and max), arithmetic mean (\bar{x}), standard deviation (SD) and coefficient of variation (CV, %) by regrowths (cuts) and years, and overall average for the collection. The

CV, :
 10%; >10-20%, >20 % (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).
 Francis & Kannenberg (1978)
 (g)
 CV, %.
 SPSS 25
 60 kg N ha⁻¹ (NH₄NO₃).
)
 5-7 cm.
 (g)
 -
 4
 (2017 .), (2018 .)
 (2019 .)
 (3).
 Excel, P=0,05), (SPSS 25
 (Lefkovich, 1985, 1990).
 (1965-2004 .)
 540 mm;

variation is considered to be weak, medium or strong at CV values, respectively: up to 10%; > 10-20%, and > 20% (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

According to the method of Francis and Kannenberg (1978) with parameters average dry mass productivity and average variance coefficient, accessions exceeding the average values for the collection in the three consecutive years were selected. As the main criterion for the selection of elite genotypes, the arithmetic mean values of dry mass productivity (g) and variation coefficient (CV %), were used. A cluster analysis was performed using SPSS 25 and the unidirectionality of the results was observed by the two evaluation methods. Annually, in spring and autumn, the plants are individually fertilized with 60 kg N ha⁻¹ in the form of ammonium nitrate (NH₄NO₃).

The forage productivity (fresh mass) per plant is recorded by harvesting the green mass individually by hand mowing with a sickle at 5-7 cm height.

The productivity of the dry mass (g) is determined by the percentage of fresh to dry weight. The first cut is in the heading stage, and the next cuts are approximately at a 4-week interval or more, depending on environmental conditions during the growing season. Indicators for the second (2017), third (2018) and fourth (2019) productive years since the collection was created are reported. Different numbers of cuts were realized for different accessions and years (Table 3). Statistical data processing (via Excel, at P = 0.05) includes variational and rank analyzes. A cluster analysis was also performed using the SPSS 25 computer program (Lefkovich, 1985, 1990).

For a period of forty years (1965-2004), the average annual rainfall is 540 mm; average annual air temperature is

11,8 C;
-
71,9 %.

(2017-2019 .)
2017 . – 755,1 mm; 2018 . – 688,4 mm;
2019 . – 552,3 mm.
2017 .
139,8%; 2018 . 127,5 %, 2019 . -
2,27%

(<http://weather.bg/>)
2017 .
623,6 mm; 2018 . - 676,9 mm; 2019 . -
538, 8 mm;

-
2017 . -
; 2018 .
(12,5 mm -); 2019 . -
(13,5 mm) (2).
(2)

12,8 C 2017 .; 12,9 C 2018 .
13,7 C 2019 . -
1964-2004 . (11,8 C),
1 C . 5
(1995-1999 .)
12,3 C,
0,7 C
(Katova,
2005).

XX

2018 .
(I_{DM} (de Marton) = 30,03). 2019 . -
(552,3 mm)

11.8 C; the average annual relative humidity is 71.9%.

The amount of precipitation for the survey period (2017-2019) for Pleven is estimated for 2017 as 755.1 mm; for 2018 – 688.4 mm; for 2019 – 552.3 mm. The excess of the sum of precipitation for 2017 over the 40-year period is 139.8%; for 2018, it is 127.5%, and 2019 emerges as the driest for the survey period, 2.27% above the forty-year period.

According to NIMH data (<http://weather.bg/>), the average precipitation for the country for 2017 is 623.6 mm; 2018 - 676.9 mm; 2019 – 538.8 mm; with the least rainfall in the last year.

The comparison with the data above shows that the sum of precipitation in Pleven for 2017 is less than the national average; for 2018 the difference is minimal (12.5 mm less); and in 2019 (13.5 mm more) (Table 2). The average annual temperatures (Table 2) for the study period are in the range of 12.8 C for 2017; 12.9 C for 2018 to 13.7 C for 2019.

They are higher than the average for 1964-2004 (11.8 C), which is above 1 C. For a period of 5 years (1995-1999), the average annual temperatures are 12.3 C, which is 0.7 C more than in the previous forty-year period (Katova, 2005).

The observed temperature anomalies at the end of the 20th century and the future climate change in Bulgaria, in the context of global warming, require new strategies regarding the selection of new varieties with increased adaptation and productivity in dry conditions. The complex influence of the increased average monthly air temperatures combined with heavy rainfall during the 2018 growing season in the Pleven region classify it as humid (I_{DM} (de Marton) = 30.03). 2019 has a lower annual rainfall (552.3 mm) and emerges as the driest for the study period. There is

(116,8 mm);
mm); (82,8 mm) (89,6

one clear maximum of precipitation in April (116.8 mm); relatively high values for May (82.8 mm) and June (89.6 mm); as well as drought in the second half.

A better distribution of rainfall in March, April, May and June has a beneficial effect on spring shooting, tillering and heading, and precipitation in September and October are important for the absorption of nitrogen fertilizers and autumn shooting.

2.

Table 2. Meteorological characteristics for Pleven region

Years	Monthly average air temperatures, t° C												Year average, t° C
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
2017	-4,4	2,9	10,3	12,2	17,0	23,0	24,0	24,4	19,5	12,6	7,2	5,0	12,8
Deviation, °C	-3,8	0,7	4	0,5	-0,6	2	0,8	1,7	1,3	0,6	1,3	4,1	1
2018	2,0	2,0	5,3	16,9	19,6	21,8	22,9	24,0	18,9	15,4	5,1	1,2	12,9
Deviation, °C	2,6	-0,2	-1	5,2	2	0,8	-0,3	1,3	0,7	3,4	-0,8	0,3	1,1
2019	0,5	4,4	10,1	12,2	17,0	22,3	23,5	24,9	20,0	14,4	10,7	4,4	13,7
Deviation, °C	1,1	2,2	3,8	0,5	-0,6	1,3	0,3	2,2	1,8	2,4	4,8	3,5	1,9
Average for 40 years (1965–2004)	-0,6	2,2	6,3	11,7	17,6	21,0	23,2	22,7	18,2	12,0	5,9	0,9	11,8
Years	Monthly sum of precipitations, mm												Year sum, mm
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
2017	41,3	16,2	61,5	37,6	154,3	1,9	155,9	28,5	37,4	108,9	55,4	56,2	755,1
Deviation, mm	5,1	-15,5	25,7	-12,5	91,7	-64,5	96,1	-18,6	-7,8	78,6	15,4	21,3	258,0
2018	30,9	72,0	98,1	20,2	47,5	155,2	118,9	22,2	15,4	16,1	61,9	30,0	688,4
Deviation, mm	-5,3	40,3	62,3	-29,9	-15,1	88,8	59,1	-24,9	-29,8	-14,2	21,9	-4,9	148,4
2019	17,7	22,6	19,0	116,8	82,8	89,6	51,3	39,0	1,3	12,3	78,6	21,3	552,3
Deviation, mm	-18,5	-9,1	-16,8	66,7	20,2	23,2	-8,5	-8,1	-43,9	-18	38,6	13,6	12,3
Average for 40 years (1965–2004)	36,2	31,7	35,8	50,1	62,6	66,4	59,8	47,1	45,2	30,3	40,0	34,9	540,0
Years	Relative air humidity, %												Year average, %
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
2017	82,6	75,1	64,6	62,1	73,0	66,3	63,9	55,5	59,9	70,0	82,2	73,7	69,2
Deviation, %	-0,8	-4,1	-7,2	-4,4	6,2	0,4	1,1	-7,5	-6	-3,3	1,5	-10,2	-2,7
2018	80,7	82,2	76,0	63,5	66,2	70,7	72,9	64,1	59,9	69,4	86,8	81,1	72,8
Deviation, %	-2,7	3	4,2	-3	-0,6	4,8	10,1	1,1	-6	-3,9	6,1	-2,8	0,9
2019	81,7	20,5	58,1	67,8	69,7	74,5	63,9	54,2	55,3	70,4	82,8	81,4	65,03
Deviation, %	-1,7	-58,7	-13,7	1,3	2,9	8,6	1,1	-8,8	-10,6	-2,9	2,1	-2,5	-6,87
Average for 40 years (1965–2004)	83,4	79,2	71,8	66,5	66,8	65,9	62,8	63,0	65,9	73,3	80,7	83,9	71,9

(De Marton, 1926, uzmov, 2003.; Paltineanu | The aridity index (De Marton, 1926; Kuzmova, 2003; Paltineanu et al., 2007)

2018 .

Albena, Adela, IRGR-Sadovo Merifest T, Capriora, Atoluka - 2019 .

() Albena, Adela IRGR-Sadovo; Merifest T Ravnogor.

Transilvan, Atoluka Capriora.

Albena, Adela IRGR-Sadovo 17 , . .

; Transilvan - 6

Merifest T 16 , . .

Atoluka 9 7 Capriora Ravnogor. 4, 5 6

108,53 g. -

Albena Adela, IRGR-Sadovo, 3

Transilvan Merifest T, -

Atoluka. Capriora, Ravnogor -

- 35 %, -

21-23 %, -

8-15%. -

For 2018, the maximum number of cuts is five for Albena, Adela, IRGR-Sadovo and Merifest T variants, with a significant reduction for Ravnogor - three cuts; Capriora and Atoluka - two each; and Transilvan with only one cut. In 2019, six (one more than the previous year) were reported at Albena, Adela and IRGR-Sadovo; five on Merifest T and one on Ravnogor. In the last year of the study, the Transilvan, Atoluka and Capriora variants are reported to have died.

In the Albena, Adela and IRGR-Sadovo tall fescue, 17 cuts were performed, that is similar dynamics of post-harvest growth and multicutting development throughout the years; for meadow fescue, the Romanian variety Transilvan - 6 cuts in total, and the Merifest T breeding population with 16 cuts, they differ greatly in the dynamics of growth and multicuttings. In the case of red fescue, the lowest number of cuts is observed for the period, from 7 for the Capriora and Atoluka to 9 for the Ravnogor ecotype.

Tables 4, 5 and 6 show the average arithmetic values of dry mass productivity by cuts and total for the year, as well as the variation for each year of the study, respectively. In 2017, the average forage productivity of dry mass was 108.53 g.

The highest productivity above average is the 3 tall fescue accessions IRGR-Sadovo, Albena and Adela, the intermediate ones are the Transilvan and Merifest T meadow fescue, but below the average productivity for the collection and the lowest productivity for the red fescue accessions Capriora, Atoluka and Ravnogor. First cut account for the largest share of annual forage productivity – 35% second and sixth cuts – 21-23%, and third, fourth and fifth cuts of 8-15%.

Relatively good annual distribution of dry weight productivity is observed, with the decline in the driest and warmest months,

30,81% 101,07 %, 64,64% (4).

but the plants do not fall into complete dormancy and there is formation of biomass and cuts. The variation within and between populations is strong from 30.81% to 101.07%, with an average of 64.64% for the collection (Table 4).

4. 2017 .

Table 4. Average arithmetic values of dry matter productivity for fescue accessions, 2017

Accession	, Dry matter productivity, g							CV, %
	I cut	II cut	III cut	IV cut	V cut	VI cut	Total	
Albena	76,52	61,57	39,79	27,12	20,68	28,14	253,81	56,74
Adela	56,46	28,56	20,43	12,58	10,60	14,21	142,84	61,98
IRGR-Sadovo	106,84	39,71	32,09	28,67	19,77	32,05	259,13	47,04
Transilvan	21,21	19,94	6,72	1,86	0,86		50,59	91,75
Capriora	11,10	10,45	3,35	0,78	0,34		26,02	77,62
Ravnogor	8,10	7,55	4,01	1,98	3,64		25,29	50,13
Atoluka	10,17	5,31	3,26	1,45	0,64		20,83	101,07
Merifest T	11,34	22,37	23,40	9,08	8,67	14,88	89,73	30,81
average	37,72	24,43	16,63	10,44	8,15	22,32	108,53	64,64
min	8,10	5,31	3,26	0,78	0,34	14,21	20,83	30,81
max	106,84	61,57	39,79	28,67	20,68	32,05	259,13	101,07
SD	37,70	18,90	14,38	11,57	8,36	9,12	100,07	
CV,%	99,95	77,35	86,49	110,78	102,57	40,87	92,21	

2018 . 92,47 g.

4 : Albena, IRGR-Sadovo Adela, Merifest T, Capriora, Ravnogor Atoluka Transilvan.

-58 %, 20 %, (2019 , b) (80%).

38,19% 121,68 67,27% (5).

In 2018, the average forage productivity of dry mass is 92.47 g. The highest productivity above the average is 4accessions: Albena, IRGR-Sadovo and Adela tall fescue, and Merifest T meadow fescue, and below the average productivity for the collection are the Capriora, Ravnogor and Atoluka red fescue and Transilvan meadow fescue. First cut account for the largest share of annual forage productivity of - 58%, third and fourth cuts account for over 20%, and second and fifth slopes of 11-13%. Petrova (2019 a, b) reports that the highest is the productivity of first-cut meadow and tall specimens (80% of the annual). The variation within and between populations is strong from 38.19% to 121.68%, with an average of 67.27% for the collection (Table 5).

5.

2018 .

Table 5. Average arithmetic values of dry matter productivity for fescue accessions, 2018

Accession	, Dry matter productivity, g						CV, %
	I cut	II cut	III cut	IV cut	V cut	Total	
Albena	115,56	27,90	31,26	34,98	15,33	225,02	38,19
Adela	72,91	14,09	15,18	16,11	6,86	125,15	74,82
IRGR-Sadovo	131,57	21,87	29,18	27,15	14,76	224,53	50,09
Transilvan	12,44					12,44	92,29
Capriora	5,76	1,10				6,68	121,68
Ravnogor	10,36	1,85	3,80			16,01	54,44
Atoluka	31,24	2,77				34,01	65,33
Merifest T	50,21	14,37	14,17	12,54	4,62	95,92	41,35
average	53,76	11,99	18,72	22,70	10,39	92,47	67,27
min	5,76	1,10	3,80	12,54	4,62	6,68	38,19
max	131,57	27,90	31,26	34,98	15,33	225,02	121,68
SD	48,78	10,55	11,43	10,28	5,45	91,90	
CV,%	90,74	87,93	61,06	45,31	52,48	99,38	

2019 .

- 135,73 g.

-

2

IRGR-Sadovo Albena,

Adela, Merifest T Ravnogor.

Atoluka Capriora, Transilvan

-

- 29 %, ,

- 20 %, ,

13-18%.

55,08% 134,60 %, ,

74,24% (6).

In 2019, the average forage productivity of dry mass is 135.73 g. The highest productivity above average is the 2 accessions of IRGR-Sadovo and Albena tall fescue and below the average productivity for the collection are the Adela, Merifest T and Ravnogor accessions. Three of the accessions red fescue Capriora, Atoluka and meadow fescue Transilvan died this year. First cut account for the largest share of annual forage productivity of 29%, second and third cuts account for over 20%, and fourth fifth and sixth cuts of 13-18%. The variation within and between populations is strong from 55.08% to 134.60%, with average of 74.24% for the collection (Table 6).

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Merifest T

,

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,

Ravnogor,

-

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Tall fescue accessions are characterized by persistency, high productivity and stability, and an even distribution of forage productivity throughout the year. The meadow fescue Merifest T breeding populations is distinguished by its longevity, high productivity and stability for the species, and uniform distribution of forage productivity throughout the year, and by the red fescue only the Ravnogor ecotype is relatively long lasting. The following trend is observed. In all three years of study, the Albena and Adela varieties, as well as the IRGR-Sadovo ecotype, are the

Albena Adela, IRGR- most productive accessions in terms of
Sadovo - dry mass.

2017, 2018
2019 : IRGR-Sadovo – Their total productivity for 2017, 2018 and
739,10 g, Albena – 687,55 g; Adela – 2019 is as follows: IRGR-Sadovo - 739.10
397,90 g. IRGR-Sadovo - g, Albena - 687.55 g; Adela - 397,90 g.
The IRGR-Sadovo ecotype is the most
productive, followed by the Albena and
Adela varieties (Table 7).

6.

2019 .

Table 6. Average arithmetic values of dry matter productivity for fescue accessions, 2019

Accession	, Dry matter productivity, g							CV, %
	I cut	II cut	III cut	IV cut	V cut	VI cut	Total	
Albena	67,96	44,66	49,81	25,38	19,26	12,64	208,72	55,08
Adela	32,68	27,82	30,06	23,77	13,31	7,79	129,91	56,83
IRGR-Sadovo	68,19	47,73	39,18	38,97	33,44	35,65	255,44	55,09
Ravnogor	4,64	2,15					6,79	134,60
Merifest T	25,43	19,02	22,06	9,15	2,31		77,77	69,60
average	39,78	28,28	35,28	24,32	17,08	18,69	135,73	74,24
min	4,64	2,15	22,06	9,15	2,31	7,79	6,79	55,08
max	68,19	47,73	49,81	38,97	33,44	35,65	255,44	134,60
SD	24,87	16,82	10,35	10,56	11,23	12,15	89,08	
CV,%	62,52	59,50	29,33	43,43	65,77	65,01	65,63	

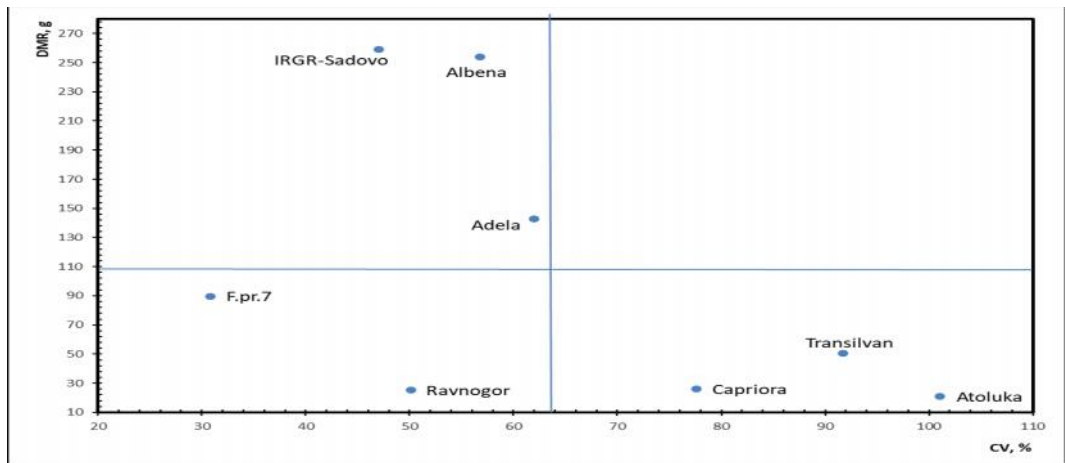
7.

2017-2019 .

Table 7. Total dry matter productivity and rank distribution of fescue accessions for 2017-2019 period

Accession	, Dry matter productivity, g				
	2017	2018	2019		
Albena	253,81	225,02	208,72	687,55	2
Adela	142,84	125,15	129,91	397,90	3
IRGR-Sadovo	259,13	224,53	255,44	739,10	1
Average for F.ar.	218,59	191,57	198,02	608,18	
Transilvan	50,59	12,44		63,03	5
Merifest T	89,73	95,92	77,77	263,42	4
Average for F.pr.	70,16	54,18	77,77	163,23	
Capriora	26,02	6,68		32,70	8
Ravnogor	25,29	16,01	6,79	48,09	7
Atoluka	20,83	34,01		54,84	6
Average for F. r.	24,05	18,90	6,79	45,21	
Total average	108,53	92,47	135,73	285,83	
min	20,83	6,68	6,79	32,70	
max	259,13	225,02	255,44	739,59	
SD	100,07	91,9	99,6	293,62	
CV, %	92,21	99,38	73,38	102,73	
confidence 0,01	91,14	83,69	90,70	267,40	

				The ranking of the accessions is based on the overall average productivity for the collection and for each of the species and samples in it. The most productive species by species are tall fescue average - 608.18 g, followed by meadow fescue - 163.23 g and the least productive is red fescue - 45.21 g.
45,21 g.	-	-	-	
	- 608,18 g,	-	-	
	- 163,23 g	-	-	
(2019)		-	-	For the conditions of Central South Bulgaria of cinnamon-forest tar-like soils, Petrova (2019 b) found that in comparison with meadow and tall fescue, the tall fescue is characterized by higher productive forage capacity. The total arithmetic mean value of dry mass forage productivity for the collection is 285.83 g.
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
	285,83 g.	,	,	It is clear that there is a large species difference, with the tall fescue the accessions IRGR-Sadovo - 739.10 g and Albena - 687.55 g, exceed the average for the species; for meadow fescue tetraploid breeding population Merifest T - 263.42 g, significantly above the mean for the species, and for the Atoluka - 54.84 g and Ravnogor - 48.09 g red fescue exceed the average for the species by dry mass productivity.
IRGR-Sadovo	- 739,10 g	Albena	-	
687,55 g,			-	
			-	
T-	263,42 g,	Merifest	-	
			-	
48,09 g	- 54,84 g	-	-	
			-	
	1, 2 3		-	Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the distribution of fescue accessions by the model of Francis and Kannenberg (1978) for the three years of the study. In 2017, the first and most selective quadrant, from the breeding point of view, were the tall fescue accessions IRGR-Sadovo, Albena and Adela. The other 5 genotypes in the collection are meadow and red fescue and are distributed in the low productivity zone of the third and fourth quadrants.
(1978)	Francis	Kannenberg	-	
2017			-	
			-	
IRGR-Sadovo,	Albena	Adela.	-	
5			-	

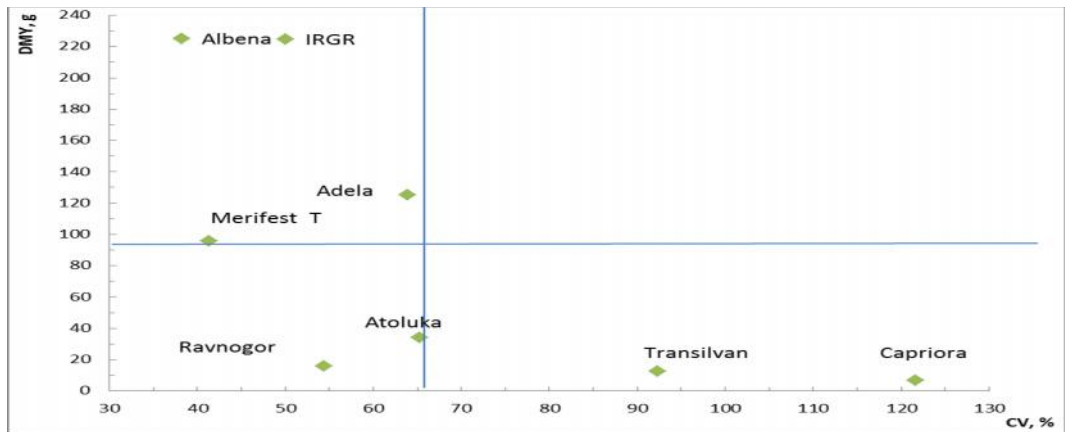


. 1. / 2017 .

Fig. 1. Distribution/evaluation by dry mass productivity and ecological stability of fescue

2018 .
 IRGR-Sadovo,
 Merifest T (F.pr. 7)
 Adela
 , . .
 -

In the next 2018, Albena and IRGR-Sadovo are redeployed in the first quadrant, as well as the Merifest T breeding population (F.pr. 7) and the Romanian variety Adela with high productivity and high stability, ie. low variability. The remaining accessions are distributed into third and fourth quadrants - with low productivity.



. 2. / 2018 .

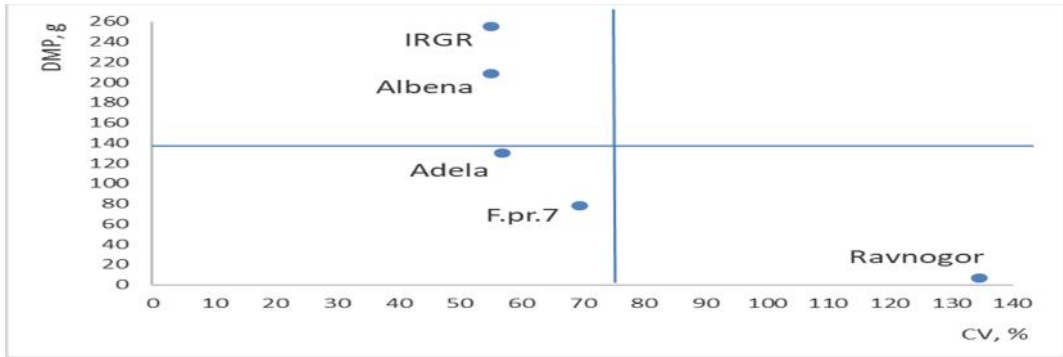
Fig. 2. Distribution/evaluation by dry mass productivity and ecological stability of fescue accessions in 2018

2019, IRGR-Sadovo Albena

- | In the final year of the survey 2019, IRGR-Sadovo and Albena again fall in the

Adela

first quadrant, while the Adela variety is at the border between fourth and first, but below the average productivity of the collection for the year.



. 3.

/

2019 .

Fig. 3. Distribution/ evaluation by dry mass productivity and ecological stability of fescue accessions in 2019

Ravnogor, Atoluka, Transilvan Capriora

The ecotypes Ravnogor, Atoluka, and the Transilvan and Capriora varieties show lower than average total forage in combination with low and high variation over the entire study period and are distributed between the third and fourth quadrants over the years. In terms of durability, only Ravnogor reported productivity in the last year of the study.

Ravnogor

The remaining ecotypes have been died and have not been reported. The IRGR-Sadovo ecotype and the Albena variety showed high productivity and high stability throughout the study. In support of our results are also the data from a study in southern Bulgaria that the Bulgarian Albena variety selected for the control in the experiment has the highest annual yield of dry biomass and the introduced reference varieties occupy an intermediate position (Stamatova, 2017; Petrova, 2019 a, b).

IRGR-Sadovo

Albena

(Stamatova, 2017; Petrova, 2019 a,b).

4 e

Ward 8

2017 .

3

1.

In Figure 4, the dendrogram of a hierarchical cluster analysis by Ward method of 8 genotypes fescue for 2017 is shown three clearly separated clusters were formed, corresponding completely to the distribution of the samples of Figure 1.

IRGR-Sadovo, Albena
Adela,
Merifest T Ravnogor,
Capriora Atoluka,
Transilvan,
2017
Francis
Kannenber (1978).

The first cluster consists of the IRGR-Sadovo, Albena and Adela varieties, which corresponds completely to the first quadrant.

The second cluster includes Merifest T and Ravnogor, which correspond to the fourth low-productive and stable quadrant. The final third cluster includes the rest of the collection's accessions - the Transilvan, Capriora and Atoluka ecotypes, the latter being some distance away. It can be safely said that the clustering of 2017 variants of fescue is completely consistent with their distribution by the method of Francis and Kannenberg (1978).

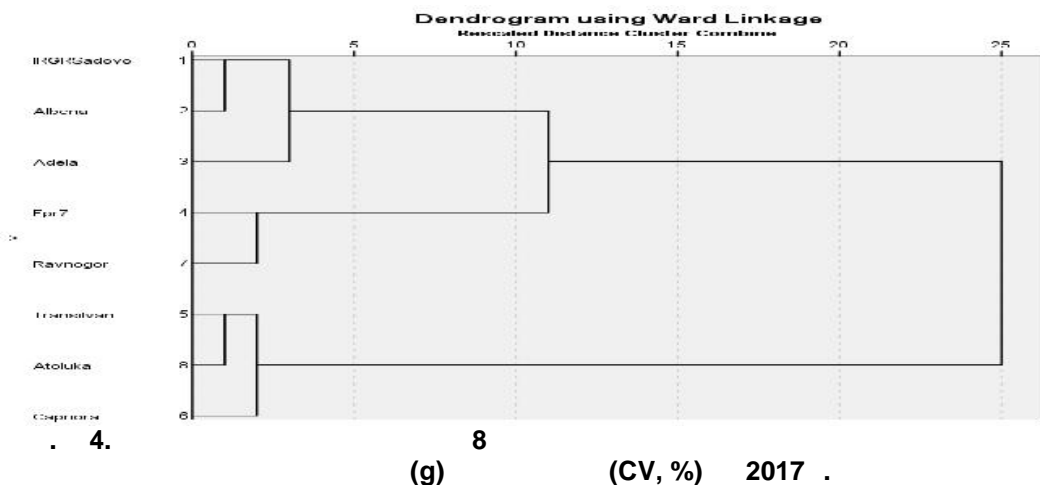


Fig. 4. Cluster analyses of 8 fescue accessions according dry mass productivity (g) and variability (CV, %) in 2017

5
2018
Albena.
IRGR-Sadovo
a
Ravnogor, Merifest T, Atoluka Adela,

In Figure 5 shows a dendrogram of the studied fescue accessions with respect to cluster analysis combining dry mass productivity and coefficient of variation. In 2018, there are three clusters. In the first cluster at close range are the samples IRGR-Sadovo and Albena. They form one group in terms of productivity and environmental stability. In the second and largest cluster are the samples Ravnogor, Merifest T, Atoluka and Adela, which are divided into two different quadrants. Merifest T and Adela - in the first quadrant, Atoluka and

. Merifest T Adela –
 , Atoluka Ravnogor –
 Capriora Transilvan,
 Francis
 Kennenberg (1978)
 IRGR-Sadovo Albena

Ravnogor - in the fourth. The last cluster consists of Capriora and Transilvan, which are distributed in the third quadrant.

There is good agreement between the distribution of Francis and Kennenberg (1978) and the clustering of accessions in the second and third clusters. The most interesting for the year are the IRGR-Sadovo and Albena accessions, which are in the first quadrant of the distribution and in one cluster.

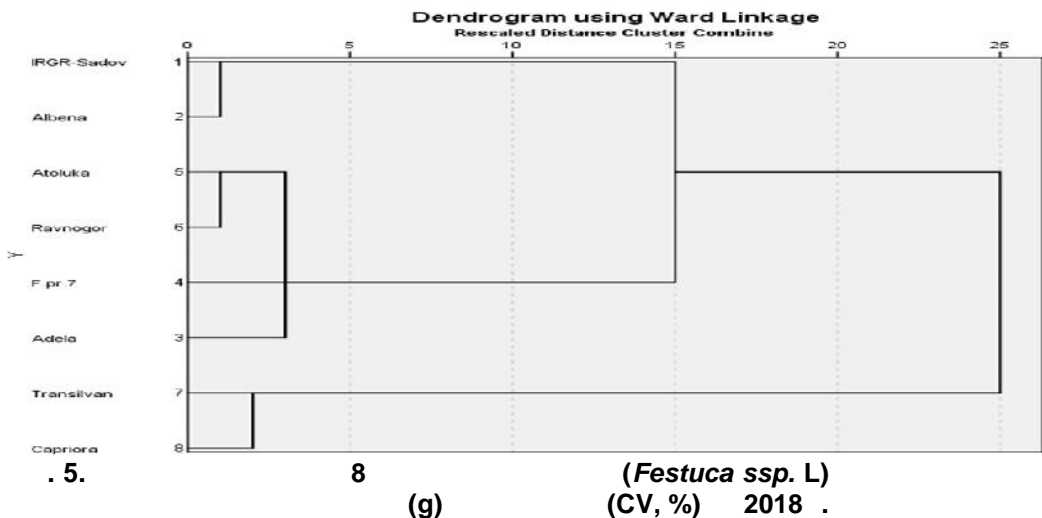


Fig. 5. Cluster analyses of 8 fescue accessions according dry mass productivity (g) and variability (CV, %) in 2018

6
 5
 (2019)
 Ravnogor
 3. IRGR-
 Sadovo Albena
 Adela
 Merifest T

In Figure 6. a dendrogram of a cluster analysis of 5 fescue accessions during the last (2019) year of the study is presented. Three distinct clusters have been formed. The Ravnogor ecotype forms a separate cluster, which is farthest from all other accessions and corresponds to its distribution in the most unfavorable third square of Figure 3.

IRGR-Sadovo and Albena form a separate cluster corresponding to their distribution in the first quadrant of the figure. Respectively, the separately formed cluster of Adela and Merifest T corresponds to their fourth quadrant distribution - lower productivity with lower

2019
Albena

Francis Kennenberg
IRGR-Sadovo

- variation. There is good agreement between the cluster analysis of the accessions and their respective distribution according to the Francis and Kennenberg model for 2019. The IRGR-Sadovo ecotype and the Albena variety have high productivity and stability in all three years of study. This is evidenced by their constant presence in the first quadrant of the above model.

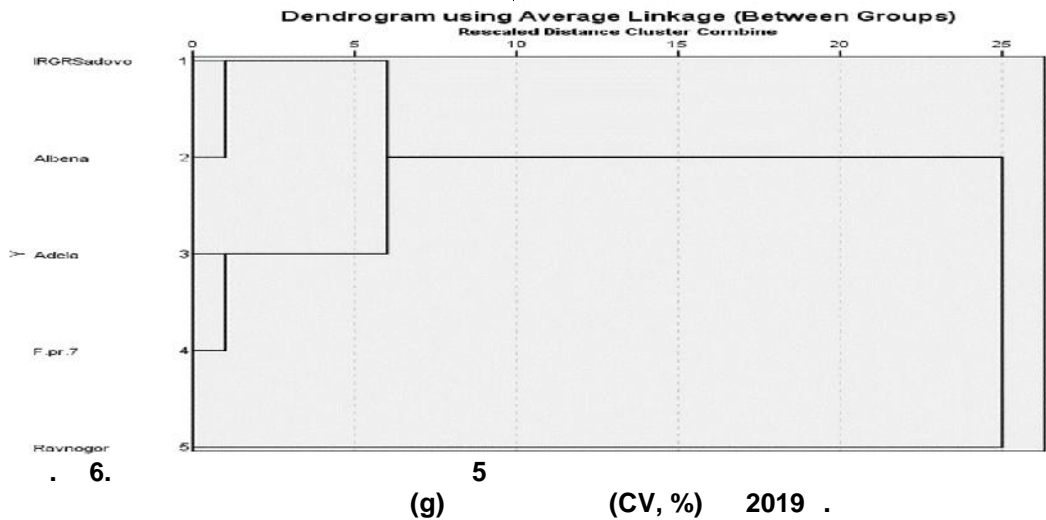


Fig. 6. Cluster analyses of 8 fescue accessions according dry mass productivity (g) and variability (CV, %) in 2019

CONCLUSIONS

- It has been established that the forage productivity vary strongly depending on the genotype – species, variety or ecotype, ploidy level, seasonal variations (growths and years), as well as growing conditions.

- In 2017 the fescue accessions with forage productivity over the collection's average are 3: ecotype IRGR – Sadovo and varieties Albena and Adela. In 2018 the varieties Albena and Adela, and also the ecotype IRGR – Sadovo and breeding population Merifest T, altogether 4 accessions have productivity over the average. In 2019 ecotype IRGR – Sadovo and varieties Albena are the highest productive and stable. Red fescue accessions *Atoluka* and *Capriora* and

Transilvan

-

-

-

-

(17). (6,5)

-

:

- 739,10 g

687,55 g;

Merifest T 263,42 g

- 48,09 g, 54,84 g

- Francis Kannenberg (1978)

Festuca.

meadow fescue *Transilvan* died after the fourth productive year and they are less persistent in comparison with the tall fescue accessions.

The highest average annual and total dry mass productivity and ecological stability for the three years is taken into account in the tall fescue accessions: ecotype IRGR - Sadovo and variety Albena, which formed the highest regrowths number per year (6,5,6) and total for the period (17).

Accessions with the highest total dry mass productivity and ecological stability for the three years by the species are: from tall fescue ecotype IRGR - Sadovo - 739,10 g and variety Albena - 687,55 g; from meadow fescue – tetraploid breeding population Merifest T - 263,42 g and from red fescue – ecotype Atoluka - 54,84 g and Ravnogor - 48,09 g, excluding average value for each species.

The two evaluation methods applied - Francis and Kannenberg (1978) and cluster analysis have obtained unidirectional results and are a reliable tool for tandem selection for forage productivity and environmental stability in *Festuca* species.

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(3000 ml/ha),
 0.447 t/ha (11.5 %)
 :
 :
 -
 (Delchev et al., 2000; Rossini et al., 2018).
 (Rossini et al., 2018; Dechev 2008),
 (Panajotova and Kostadinova, 2019; Ercoli et al., 2011; Cathy et al., 2019; Gonfa et al., 2018).
 (Petr, 2005; Wolber and Seemann, 2006) (Delibaltova et al., 2009; Kolev et al., 2011).
 (Delchev et al., 2001; Delchev et al., 2011, Kolev et al., 2015).

Megafol (3000 ml/ha), in which the increase of the productivity average for the period of study is with 0.447 t/ha (11.5 %) more than the untreated control.

The new organo-mineral products contribute for the higher values of the structural elements of the yield, such as: number of the spikelet per spike, number of the grains per spike, mass of the grains per spike in one plant.

Key words: Durum wheat, organo-mineral products, yield

INTRODUCTION

The issue of boosting the productivity and enhancing the quality of wheat grain is attaining greater importance in relation to the increased necessities of the population and the requirements to the grain nutritional values and technological properties so as to meet the needs of the bread-making, pasta and confectionery industries (Delchev et al., 2000; Rossini et al., 2018).

According to a number of authors, the increase in yield and quality of durum wheat is the result of the interaction of a whole complex of factors, including the cultivar (Rossini et al., 2018 Dechev 2008), the agriecological conditions as well as the growing and harvesting technologies (Panajotova and Kostadinova, 2019; Ercoli et al., 2011; Cathy et al., 2019; Gonfa et al., 2018).

The positive influence of the use of biologically active substances to increase the productive capacity of a number of grain cultures is proven in experiments performed abroad (Petr, 2005; Wolber and Seemann, 2006) and in our country as well (Delibaltova et al., 2009; Kolev et al., 2011). Scientific literature presents data about preparations that increase the resistance of the plants towards various stress factors such as high and low temperatures (Delchev et al., 2001; Delchev et al., 2011, Kolev et al., 2015).

o-

In this survey we set ourselves the objective to find out what the influence is of new organo-mineral products on the productivity of Durum wheat variety Elbrus.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2014-2017 .,
:
- 3.0 %;
,
(K₂O) - 8.0 %;
() - 9.0 %;
- 15.5 %; K
(
) (3000 ml/ha)
- (- 2.0 %;
- 1.0 %;
- 1.0 %;
4.5 %;
GEA 166 -
,
ml/ha) (3000
,
10 m².
20.10 05.11. 500
/m²
120 kg/ha 80 kg/ha
,
1/2 ,
- .

In the Study, experimental and implementation base of the Department of Plant growing of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv a field experiment is carried out during the period 2014-2017, which explores the influence of the following organo-mineral products: Megafof - (Total nitrogen - 3.0%; Organic nitrogen - 1.0%; Non-protein residual nitrogen - 2.0%; Potassium oxide (K₂O) - 8.0%; Organic carbon (C) - 9.0%; Total organic matter - 15.5%; complex of biologically active substances (sugar beet extract, algae extract) in dose (3000 ml/ha) and Megafof protein - (Total nitrogen - 2.0%; Organic nitrogen - 1.0%; Non-protein residual nitrogen - 1.0%; Potassium oxide (K₂O) - 4.5%; Organic carbon (C) - 10.0%; GEA 166 - A complex of biologically active substances that activate genes involved in protein synthesis) in dose (3000 ml/ha) on the productivity of the Durum wheat variety Elbrusl. The tested products were applied alone and in combination in the phases of tillering, stem elongation and ear emergence. The experiment is performed after predecessor chickpea, according to three factor experiment by the method of split plots, repeated four times, with dimensions of the land plot 10 m².

The sowing of the Durum wheat is done within the optimal period, i.e. from 20.10 to 05.11. with sowing rate 500 germinating seeds/m² and mineral fertilization with 120 kg/ha nitrogen and 80 kg/ha phosphorus, where the entire quantity of phosphor fertilizer and 1/2 of the nitrogen fertilizer are inserted before sowing, while early in the spring the remaining quantity of the nitrogen fertilizer is inserted as a nutrition. All elements are observed of the established technology

(t/ha).

(g)

® (Penchev, 1988).

for growing Durum wheat.

- The structural elements of the productivity are reported, namely: number of the spikelet per spike, number of the grains per spike, mass of the grains per spike (g) and grain yield (t/ha). Statistical processing was performed with the BI STAT® software product (Penchev, 1988).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The rainfall quantity during the vegetation period of the Durum wheat is as follows: year 2014/2015 . – 655.8 mm/m², 2015/2016 . – 388.5 mm/m², 2016/2017 – 264.2 mm/m² while for the thirty-year period this amount is 419,0 mm/m² (Figure 1 and 2).

: 2014/2015
 . – 655.8 mm/m², 2015/2016 . – 388.5
 mm/m², 2016/2017 – 264.2 mm/m²
 419,0 mm/m²
 (1 2).

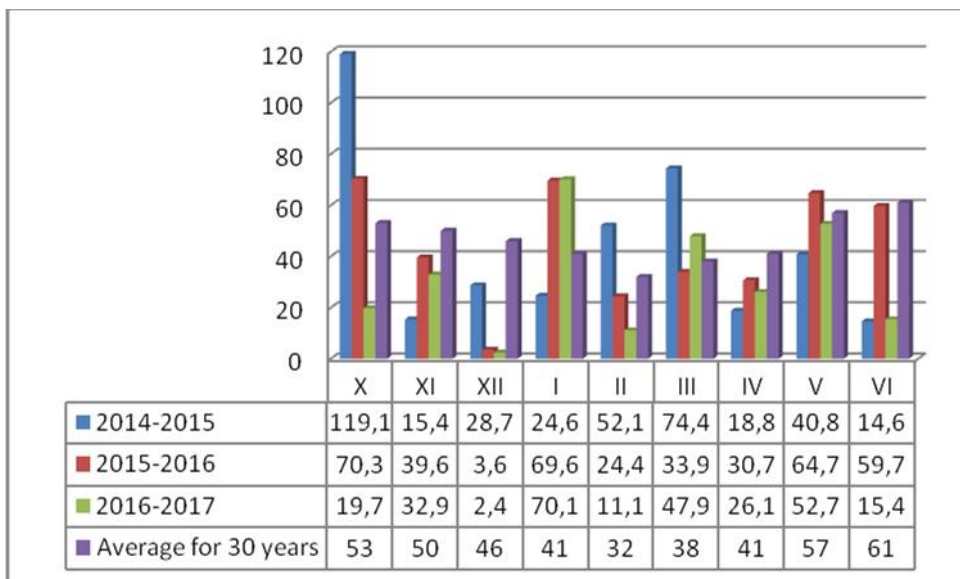


Fig. 1. Sum of precipitation by months, mm/m²

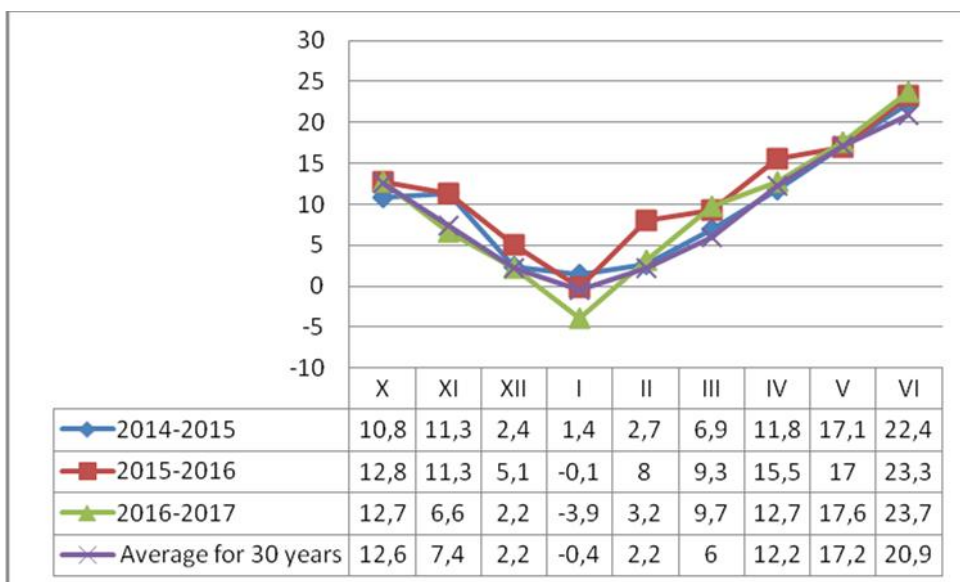


Fig. 2. Average monthly temperatures

2016/2017 . -

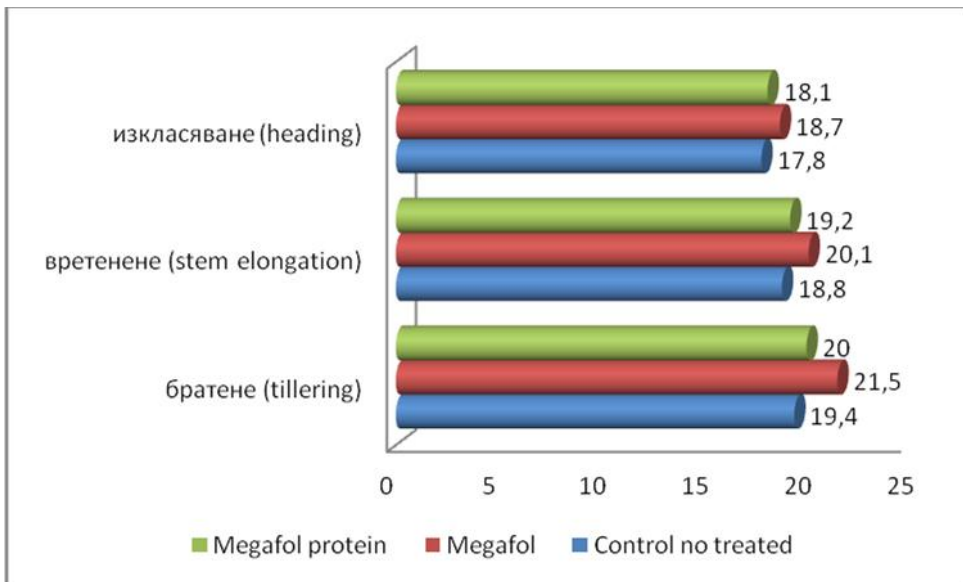
2014/2015 . -

3, 4 5

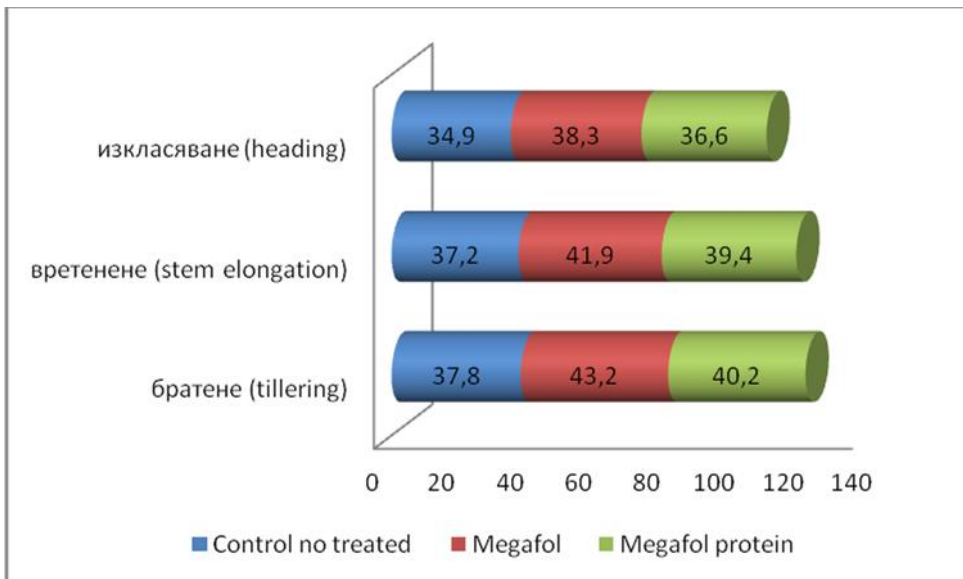
- In the third year, the total precipitation was less than that of the climatic rate, but the 2016/2017 harvest year was more favourable to the growth and development of common wheat due to their better distribution over the critical phases of plant growth

- Unfavourable for the development of the plants is the first year 2014/2015, due to the drought in the month of April, when the structural elements of the yield are formed.

- Due to the common tendency of the data during the experimental period, Figure 3, 4 and 5 shows the obtained average values of the measured biometrical indicators. The tested organo-mineral products influence positively for the increase of the values of the reported structural elements of the yield – number of the spikelet per spike, number of the grains per spike, mass of the grains per spike (g).



. 3. (2014-2017)
Fig. 3. Number of the spikelet per spike (average 2014-2017)



. 4. (2014-2017)
Fig. 4. Number of the grains per spike (average 2014-2017)

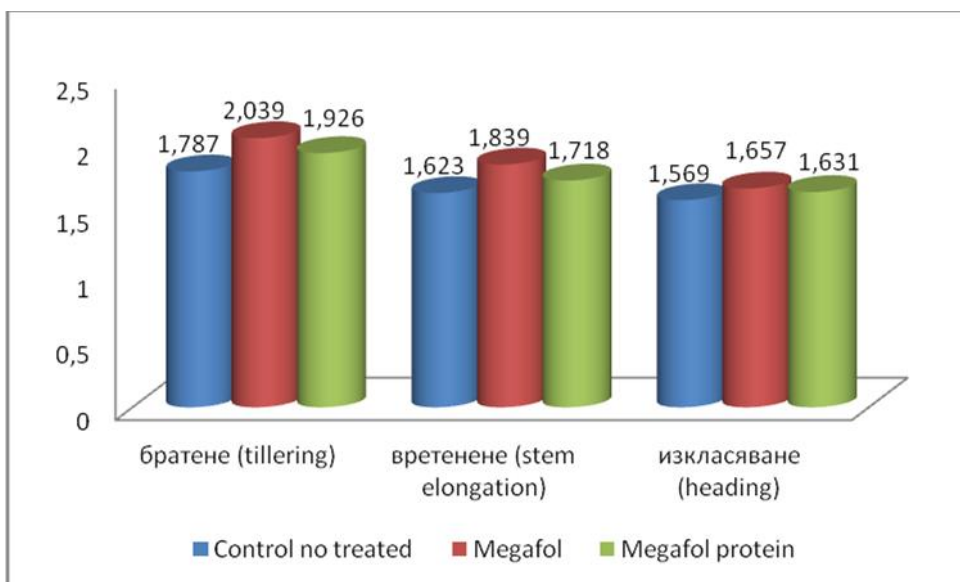


Fig. 5. Mass of the grains per spike, g (average 2014-2017)

3000 ml/ha
21.5 ; 43.2 ; 2.039 g

3000 ml/ha.

1

(3000 ml/ha).

0.414 t/ha 2015 . 0.498 t/ha
2017 .
0.447 t/ha (11.5 %)

The largest number of the spikelet per spike, number of the grains per spike, mass of the grains per spike is achieved in the variant treated with the organo-mineral product Megafol in the phase of tillering with a dosage of 3000 ml/ha respectively with 21.5 pieces; 43.2 pieces and 2.039 g more than the untreated control plants. On the second place is positioned the variant sprayed with the Megafol in phase of stem elongation with dosage 3000 ml/ha.

Table 1 shows the data about the obtained yield for the different years and averagely for the period. The increase of the productivity of the Durum wheat variety Elbrus is most significant when it is treated in the phase of tillering with the organo-mineral products: Megafol (3000 ml/ha). For the different years the increase of the yield of grains for this variant varies from 0.414 t/ha for the year 2015 to 0.498 t/ha in the year 2017 or averagely for the period of the experiment with 0.447 t/ha (11.5 %) more than the untreated control crops.

T 1. , t/ha
Table 1. Grain yield, t/ha

Phases of growth	Products	2015	2016	2017	Average
Tillering	Control	3.542	3.676	4.405	3.874
	Megafof	3.956	4.105	4.903	4.321
	Megafof protein	3.812	3.908	4.710	4.143
Stem elongation	Control	3.514	3.649	4.352	3.838
	Megafof	3.691	4.020	4.860	4.190
	Megafof protein	3.548 ^{ns}	3.740 ^{ns}	4.640 ^{ns}	3.976 ^{ns}
Heading	Control	3.451	3.545	4.249	3.748
	Megafof	3.504	3.953	4.735	4.064
	Megafof protein	3.465 ^{ns}	3.636 ^{ns}	4.532 ^{ns}	3.878 ^{ns}
GD 5 %		0.145	0.342	0.451	0.236
1 %		0.168	0.375	0.492	0.284
0.1 %		0.192	0.416	0.504	0.315

a, b, c, significance at 5, 1 and 0.1%; ns – not significant

a -
3000 ml/ha
0.352 t/ha (9.2 %)
(3000 ml/ha)
0.269 t/ha (7.0 %)

In second place follow the variants sprayed with Megafof (3000 ml/ha) in the phase stem elongation averagely for the period of the experiment with 0.352 t/ha (9.2 %) more than the control crops. Next follow the variants sprayed with Megafof protein (3000 ml/ha) in the phase tillering averagely for the period of the experiment with 0.269 t/ha (7.0 %) more than the control crops.

The productivity of the Durum wheat variety Elbrus is due to the positive influence of the tested organo-mineral products on the structural elements of the yield. Regarding the climatic characteristics of the years during which

2017	-	-	
(11.5 %)	(3000 ml/ha)	0.447 t/ha	a
%)	3000 ml/ha	0.352 t/ha (9.2	-
	(3000 ml/ha)	0.269 t/ha (7.0 %)	-

the experiment is implemented, the highest yields from all variants are achieved in the harvest year 2017 which is favourable for the growth and development of the Durum wheat.

CONCLUSIONS

The tested organo-mineral products influence positively the productivity of the Durum wheat variety Elbrus.

The highest grain yield from the Durum wheat variety Elbrus is achieved in the variant treated in the phase of tillering with the organo-mineral product Megafol (3000 ml/ha), where the increase of the productivity averagely for the experimental period is with 0.447 t/ha (11,5 %) more than the untreated control crops.

In second place follow the variants sprayed with Megafol (3000 ml/ha) in the phase stem elongation averagely for the period of the experiment with 0.352 t/ha (9.2 %) more than the control crops.

Next follow the variants sprayed with Megafol protein (3000 ml/ha) in the phase tillering averagely for the period of the experiment with 0.269 t/ha (7.0 %) more than the control crops.

The new organo-mineral products help for the increase of the values of the structural elements of the grains, such as: number of the spikelet per spike, number of the grains per spike, mass of the grains per spike of one plant.

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