



Universität
Basel

Research Project

ESR4: Seasonal effects of drought on the productivity and fodder quality of temperate grassland species

Third-party funded project

Project title ESR4: Seasonal effects of drought on the productivity and fodder quality of temperate grassland species

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Organisation / Research unit

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Department

Project Website <https://botanik.unibas.ch/forschungsgruppen-der-botanik/nachhaltige-landnutzung/projects/idp-bridges/>

Project start 01.11.2013

Probable end 31.10.2017

Status Completed

Over the past decade, several experimental studies have tested the effects of drought events on European grassland systems, which are a major land use type in Europe and critical sources of fodder for livestock farming. Although these studies generally suggest a reduced biomass production in grasslands as response to drought, it is unclear if drought events occurring at different times of the year, i.e. in spring, summer or fall, will have different effects on grassland productivity and fodder quality.

This is an interdisciplinary research project that will combine plant ecophysiology, ecosystem sciences, and applied forage production research with stakeholder outreach for grassland farmers. The overall goal of the project is to (i) understand the interacting effects of seasonal drought events and species phenological stages on fodder production and fodder quality in Swiss grasslands, and (ii) to develop adapted management strategies for grasslands in the face of increased drought events and disseminate these strategies directly to stakeholders (farmers, extension services, agricultural schools, seed industry, policy).

Financed by

Commission of the European Union

Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners