Zbigniew WASILEWSKI

EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF EXTENSIVELY USED MEADOWS MOWN IN SUMMER

Key words: extensive use, habitats, turf cover, yields

Summary

Studies were carried out in the years 2010–2013 on permanent meadows situated in dry ground, proper post-bog and swamping post-bog habitats. The following ways of management were applied: mowing and biomass removal, mowing and leaving biomass on swaths, mowing with grinding and leaving biomass on meadow and not mowing. Meadows were mown in the beginning of July in the dry ground habitat and in the middle of July in post-bog habitats. In all studied habitats, mown biomass left on the surface decreased the degree of turf cover compared with that on harvested meadows. No significant differentiation was found in the height of the main sward mass in relation to the type of meadow utilization with the exception of that in the third and fourth year in post-bog habitats. In dry ground and proper post-bog habitat the share of grasses decreased in favour of herbs (increased weeding) with time. Reverse phenomenon was observed in most wet (swamping post-bog) habitat, where the share of grasses slightly increased due to the development of the reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea L.). Leaving mown biomass on meadow did not have negative impact on yielding in dry ground and proper post-bog habitats while the same in the swamping post-bog habitat markedly limited yielding.