

Influence of cutting regime on sainfoin (*Onobrychis*



viciifolia Scop.) yield

DEMDOUM S., DELGADO I., MUÑOZ F.



Animal Production Unit, CITA de Aragón. Zaragoza (Spain).

INTRODUCTION

Sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia* Scop.) is a forage legume that is well adapted to dry hilly environments in calcareous soils. Sainfoin cultivation has declined over the last 40 years in Europe, mainly due a low regrowth after cut, which implied that close to 75% of the production is harvested in one cut. Intents to obtain a production more evenly spread through the year were done by applying intensive cutting regime on sainfoin focusing on the height of the plant.

OBJECTIVES

To assess the response of sainfoin to three different cutting regimes defined as cut in early, mid or late bloom, on morphological and agronomical parameters.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Cultivars: giant type 'Reznos' and common type 'Cotswold Common' were cultivated in pots of 50 l, twelve plants per pot.

Phenological state: early, mid or late bloom stages (EB, MB, LB).

Number of cuts: four, five and six cuts for late, mid and early bloom, stage respectively

Sampling: Three pots per variety.

Measurements:

Weight of aboveground part, crown and taproot.

Count of leaflets, stems and inflorescences.

Proportion of leaves and stems.



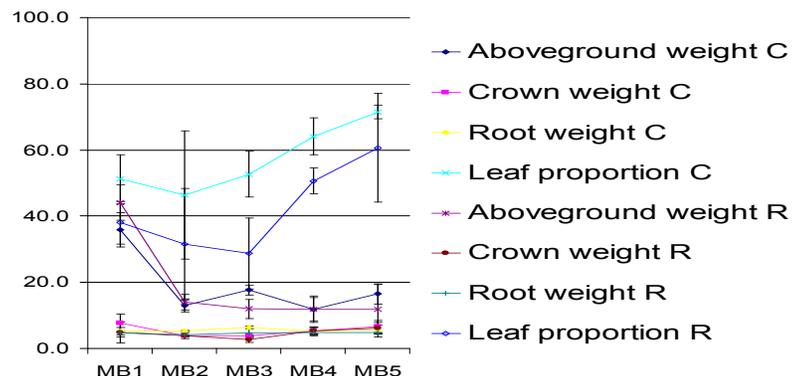
RESULTS

'Cotswold Common' flowered only in the first cut, 'Reznos' flowered in all cut.

'Costwold Common' had a higher number of lealets and stems and higher crown, root weight and leaves proportion.

No difference was found in aboveground weight

First cut represented above 40% of the annual yield.



Effects of cut and variety in mid bloom stage (MB) on agronomical parameters of 'Reznos' (R) and 'Cotswold Common' (C) varieties.

CONCLUSIONS

Giant variety 'Reznos' differed from common variety 'Cotswold Common' on leaflet and stem number, root and crown weight and leaf proportion. No difference was found in aboveground weight, which decreased dramatically after the first cut.