

## Acknowledgements

The author is very grateful to Richard Jefferson of English Nature for all his help and advice. Heather Robertson of English Nature and Derek Wells are particularly thanked for assistance in interpreting the Bratofft data. The author is most grateful to Melanie Leonard and Caroline Moss-Gibbons of IGER library for all their help in obtaining publications and references. Roger Smith, Jo Brealy and Julia Tallwin are thanked for their help with data sorting, figure preparation and compiling. Roger Wilkins and Bob Clements of IGER, Tim Blackstock of the Countryside Council for Wales and Jane MacKintosh of Scottish Natural Heritage are thanked for their valuable comments on a draft of the review. Terry Wells, Steve Peel of ADAS, Bill Elliot and Keith Payne of EN are all thanked for some useful discussions during the preparation of this review.

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\* Availability of publication subject to agreement by research sponsor

Appendix table 1. Dry matter yields (kg/ha) for uninterrupted growth, regrowths \* and total annual yields of some unfertilized and fertilized semi-natural grasslands and some agriculturally improved grasslands.

Community type	Fert. input	cutting dates										Total	Reference/source		
		April	early May	mid-May	late May	early June	mid-June	late June	July	August	September			October	
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0		510				1905		3024		5823	3590		Tallowin et al. (1996)	
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0		320				1562		3488		4545	2805		Tallowin et al. (1996)	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0				1680				4720		5480	5730		Kirkham & Tallowin (1995)	
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0								3780				4690	Kirkham & Wilkins (1994)	
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K								6960				10460	Kirkham & Wilkins (1994)	
MG5 <sup>PGE</sup> 3 limed cut	0						1500							Williams. (1978)	
MG5a <sup>PGE</sup> Plot 3 unlimed cut	0							1360				1400*	2760	Jenkinson et al (1994)	
MG10/7D <sup>PGE</sup> 14 unlimed cut	96N35P225K								5410				2250*	7660	
MG5 <sup>Bratoft</sup> cut	0									2219			578*	2797	Silvertown et al., (1994), English Nature unpublished
MG5 <sup>Bratoft</sup> cut	inorg 40P									3564			794*	4357	English Nature unpublished
MG5 <sup>Bratoft</sup> cut	inorg 44N4P52K									3651			644*	4295	English Nature unpublished
MG5 <sup>Bratoft</sup> cut	org 88N8P104K12Mg									4044			811*	4855	English Nature unpublished
MG5/6 <sup>WRO</sup>	0									1760				1760	Elliot et al., (1974)
MG5/6 <sup>WRO</sup>	80N28P40K									6780				6780	Elliot et al., (1974)
MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	0		318	850	1563	2429	3195	4100						4381	Korevaar, (1986)
MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	200N150P390K													9472	Korevaar, (1986)
MG6/MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	0		1262	1878	2494	3171	3787	4403	5054						Korevaar, (1986)
MG6/MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	0													8163	Korevaar, (1986)
MG6/MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	200N150P390K													11646	Korevaar, (1986)
MG6/7 cut/grazed	100N29P83K									5312					Arnold, Hunter & Fernandez (1976)
MG6/7 cut/grazed	0									2080					Arnold, Hunter & Fernandez (1976)
MG6 <sup>H57</sup> grazed	48N21P59K						4890					3000*		8030	Garwood & Tyson (1978)
MG7 <sup>Ref</sup> cut	150N33P62K	910	3406	5465	6928	8602	9805								<i>L. perenne</i> Ref plots
MG10 cut	0									6083					Tallowin et al. (1996)
MG10 cut/grazed	150N33P62K			2250				6120							Tallowin et al. (1990)
M24 grazed	0	<100	<100	<100			475		2336	1435	1309	968			Tallowin et al. (1996)
M15 grazed	0	<100	<100						3868			2948			Tallowin et al. (1996)
M23 grazed	0		668				1750		2505	2395	1691	3084			Tallowin et al. (1996)
M23 cut	0									6279					Tallowin et al. (1996)
CG3 cut once/yr	0				1941										Wells & Cox, (1993)
CG3 cut twice/yr	0				1386				379*						Wells & Cox, (1993)
CG3 cut thrice/yr	0				1035				330*	154*					Wells & Cox, (1993)
CG3/5 cut	0										3000				Willems. (1983)

NVC classifications of Park Grass Experimental (PGE) plots were carried out by Dodd et al., (1994)

<sup>T</sup> = data from species-rich meadows at Tatham Moor on the Somerset Levels

<sup>Bratoft</sup> = data from Bratoft meadows in Lincolnshire

<sup>H57</sup> = data from 20-24 yr old *L. perenne* dominated sward at former Grassland Research Institute

<sup>Ref</sup> = data from IGER's *L. perenne* reference plots

<sup>K</sup> = data from grasslands in the Netherlands (Korevaar, 1986)

<sup>WRO</sup> = data from Alberts Field on Begbroke Hill Farm (former Weed Research Organisation)

Appendix table 2.

Site	Fertiliser	year	mean herbage yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	variance <sup>-3</sup>	source
MG5/MG8 cut & grazed.	none	1987	4782.3	62.59	Kirkham & Tallowin 1995
	none	1988	6315.7	68.03	
	none	1989	4607.7	96.63	
	none	1990	3987.0	133.21	
	none	1991	5909.3	48.53	
	none	1992	5441.7	95.25	
MG5/MG8 cut & grazed.	200N, PK replaced	1987	6203.3	79.96	Kirkham & Tallowin (1995)
	200N, PK replaced	1988	6866.7	87.95	
	200N, PK replaced	1989	7641.0	34.16	
	200N, PK replaced	1990	6989.3	97.74	
	200N, PK replaced	1991	8512.7	89.95	
	200N, PK replaced	1992	8818.0	132.19	
MG5/MG8 cut	100N, 0P, K replaced	1987	4894.9	66.61	Kirkham & Wilkins (1994)
	none	1988	5543.7	49.01	
	none	1993	4159.1	75.54	
MG5/MG8 cut	200N,75P,200K	1987	9778.9	100.07	
	200N,75P,200K	1988	8442.0	104.63	
	200N,75P,200K	1993	5145.2	102.59	
MG13	none	1981-85	4218.0	100.80	Korevaar (1986)
MG6/7	none	1981-85	6159.0	58.02	
MG6/13	none	1981-85	8164.0	80.03	
MG13	200N,150P,390K	1981-85	9211.0	101.92	
MG6/7	Fert	1981-85	10190.0	102.12	
MG6/13	200N,150P,390K	1981-85	11646.0	81.81	
MG5	none	1973	2536.4	55.95	English Nature
	none	1974	1480.8	47.56	
	organic 88N, 8P, 104K, 12Mg	1973	5241.0	56.94	
	organic 88N, 8P, 104K, 12Mg	1974	3352.4	62.01	
	inorganic 44N, 4P,52K, 6Mg	1973	4395.4	40.41	
	inorganic 44N, 4P,52K, 6Mg	1974	3091.5	81.92	

**Appendix table 3.** Exchangeable (ammonium acetate/ammonium chloride) potassium and bicarbonate extractable (Olsen, 1954) phosphorus (mg/100g dry soil) for different mesotrophic (MG), mire and fen-meadow (M), calcareous (CG) and acidic (U) semi-natural grasslands.

Vegetation type	K	P	Sampling depth	
MG1	14.5	0.33	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
MG4 <sup>North Meadow</sup>	19.7	1.9	?	English Nature unpublished.
MG5/MG8 <sup>Tadham</sup>	15.1-39.6		0-15cm	EGRO. (1996)
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup>	31.7	0.83	0-10 cm	English Nature unpublished.
MG5 <sup>Bratof(40kg inorg P/ha/yr)</sup>	28.6	1.15	0-10 cm	English Nature unpublished
MG5 <sup>Bratof(44N4P52K kg inorganic fertilizer/ha/yr)</sup>	33.3	0.79	0-10 cm	English Nature unpublished
MG5 <sup>Bratof (88N8P104K kg organic fert/ha/yr)</sup>	37.3	0.77	0-10 cm	English Nature unpublished
MG6	9.0	0.09	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
Semi-improved	10.6	0.16	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
Semi-improved	19.2	0.10	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
M16	40.4		0-15cm	EGRO. (1996)
M23	36.2		0-15cm	EGRO. (1996)
M23		0.31-0.34	0-15cm	Blackstock <i>et al.</i> , unpublished
M24	33.5		0-15cm	EGRO. (1996)
M24		0.19-0.35	0-15cm	Blackstock <i>et al.</i> , unpublished
M25		0.30-0.72	0-15cm	Blackstock <i>et al.</i> , unpublished
M26		0.66	0-15cm	Blackstock <i>et al.</i> , unpublished
CG1	16.5	0.26	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
CG2	10.6-16.8	0.14-0.26	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
CG3 <sup>uncut for 23 yrs</sup>	11.5	1.68	0-5 cm	Wells & Cox, (1993)
CG3 <sup>cut once/yr</sup>	13.4	1.58	0-5 cm	Wells & Cox, (1993)
CG3 <sup>cut twice/yr</sup>	14.2	1.82	0-5 cm	Wells & Cox, (1993)
CG6	15.6	0.11	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
CG10	5.1	0.09	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)
U4	7.0	0.07	0-15 cm	Stevens, et al., (1995)

Appendix table 4. N content (%) of cut dry matter from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized grasslands

Community type	Fert. input	cutting dates						July	August	September	October
		April	early May	mid-May	late May	early June	mid-late June				
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	2.40	2.30			2.00	1.30	1.40	1.20		
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	2.40	2.50			2.10	1.40	2.30	1.50		
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0				2.34		1.60	1.46	1.55		
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0						1.46		2.28		
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K						1.47		3.30		
MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	0						3.30				
MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	200N150P390K				3.78		3.68				
MG6/MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	0						2.36				
MG6/MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	200N150P390K				3.20		2.90				
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	0						1.51			1.79	
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 40P						2.01			2.31	
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 44N4P52K						1.38			1.86	
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	org 88N8P104K12Mg						1.47			1.85	
MG7 <sup>Ref</sup> cut	150N33P62K	3.87	2.51	2.16	1.56	1.45	1.20				
MG10 grazed	0 (prev imp)			3.00			2.10	2.40		2.90	
MG10 grazed	120N,P&K			3.90			3.30	3.60		3.10	
M24 grazed	0	1.25		2.10		2.03	1.42	1.17	1.42	1.07	
M23 grazed	0	1.20	2.90			2.35		2.00	1.68	0.98	
M23 cut	0						1.61				
CG3 cut once/yr	0				1.45					1.89	
CG3 cut twice/yr	0				1.73		2.04				
CG3 cut thrice/yr	0				1.83		1.99	2.05			

Key = as in Appendix table 1

Appendix table 5. N yield (kg/ha) of cut dry matter from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized grasslands.

Community type	Fert. input	Cutting dates							Total
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	48.1	47.1	66.1	66.3	127.9	78.2		
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	59.3	46.3	64.3	90.1	170.1	78.6		
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0		39.3		75.5	80.0	88.8		
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0				55.3		21.8*		77.1
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K				101		115.1*		216.1
MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	0			140					140.5
MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	200N150P390K			339					339
MG6/MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	0			193					193
MG6/MG13 <sup>K</sup> cut	200N150P390K		335	338					338
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	0				26.9			9.7*	36.6
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	40P				70.8			18.0*	88.9
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	44N4P52K				50.3			11.9*	62.1
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	88N8P104K12Mg				58.7			14.4*	73.2
MG6	48N21P59K	83	48	53	16	11	7	6	224
MG7 <sup>Ref</sup> cut	150N33P62K	35.2	103.8	121.5					
MG10 grazed	0 (prev imp)				55.6				
MG10 grazed	120N,P&K			153					
M24 grazed	0	27.7	23.1	52.5	27.6	29.6	16.2		
M16 grazed	0				47.9				47.9
M23 grazed	0	47.9	37.2	65.6	71.1	43	49.7		
M23 cut	0				95.7				95.7
CG3 cut once/yr	0		28.1						28.1
CG3 cut twice/yr	0		20.6	6.1*					26.7
CG3 cut thrice/yr	0		16.6	5.6*	2.7*				24.9

Key = as in Appendix table 1, \* = yield of regrowth

Appendix table 6. Phosphorus content (%) of cut dry matter from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized gr

Community type	Fert. input	cutting dates						
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.1	
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.1	0.11	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0		0.13		0.11	0.12	0.12	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	50N10P50K				0.11			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0				0.12			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K				0.26			
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	0				0.14			0.14
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 40P				0.27			0.26
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 44N4P52K				0.13			0.15
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	org 88N8P104K12Mg				0.12			0.15
MG10 cut/grazed	0 (prev imp)				0.17			
M24 grazed	0	0.08	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.07	
M16	0	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.07		0.03	
M23 grazed	0	0.08	0.17	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.07	
M23 cut	0				0.07			
CG3 cut once/yr	0		0.1					
CG3 cut twice/yr	0		0.12	0.14				
CG3 cut thrice/yr	0		0.12	0.13	0.14			

Key = as in Appendix table 1



Appendix table 7. Potassium content (%) of cut dry matter from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized grasslands.

Community type	Fert. input	cutting dates						
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.70	0.86	1.07	1.27	0.59	0.43	
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.44	0.62	0.94	0.41	0.50	0.24	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	50N10P50K				1.15			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0				0.63			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K				1.35			
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	0				2.26			2.06
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	inorg 40P				2.39			2.41
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	inorg 44N4P52K				2.38			2.25
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	org 88N8P104K12Mg				2.51			2.28
MG10 cut/grazed	0 (prev imp)				0.91			
M24 grazed	0	0.30	0.90	1.48	1.04	0.52	0.62	
M23 grazed	0	0.35	1.27		1.24	0.74	0.34	
M23 cut	0				1.14	1.15		
CG3 cut once/yr	0		0.98					
CG3 cut twice/yr	0		1.05	1.00				
CG3 cut thrice/yr	0		1.18	1.15	1.10			

Key = as in Appendix table 1

Appendix table 8. Calcium content (%) of cut dry matter from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized grasslands.

Community type	Fert. input	cutting dates						
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.87	0.88	0.59	0.51	0.76	0.53	
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.79	0.63	0.58	0.45	0.56	0.5	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0		0.69		0.81	0.65	0.69	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0				0.73			
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	50N10P50K				0.57			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0				1.22			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K				0.7			
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	0				0.84			1.28
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	inorg 40P				0.93			1.24
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	inorg 44N4P52K				0.67			1.20
MG5 <sup>Braton</sup> cut	org 88N8P104K12Mg				0.67			1.14
MG10 cut/grazed	0 (prev imp)				0.32			
M24 grazed	0	0.29	0.30	0.29	0.29	0.42	0.4	
M23 grazed	0	0.21	0.19	0.27	0.24	0.28	0.28	
CG3 cut once/yr	0		0.83					
CG3 cut twice/yr	0		1.02	1.52				
CG3 cut thrice/yr	0		1.13	1.56	1.85			

Key = as in Appendix table 1

Appendix table 9. Magnesium content (%) of cut dry matter from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized grasslands.

Community type	Fert. input	cutting dates						
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.18	0.25	0.27	0.2	0.25	0.18	
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.22	0.27	0.28	0.22	0.3	0.19	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0		0.23		0.23	0.22	0.2	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	50N10P50K				0.18			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0				0.3			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K				0.27			
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	0				0.18			0.22
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 40P				0.22			0.23
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 44N4P52K				0.16			0.21
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	org 88N8P104K12Mg				0.16			0.21
MG10 cut/grazed	0 (prev imp)				0.12			
M24 grazed	0	0.12	0.13	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.18	
M23 grazed	0	0.06	0.1	0.12	0.12	0.1	0.1	
CG3 cut once/yr	0		0.13					
CG3 cut twice/yr	0		0.16	0.25				
CG3 cut thrice/yr	0		0.17	0.24	0.28			

Key = as in Appendix table 1

Appendix table 10. Sodium content (%) of cut dry matter from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized grasslands.

Community type	Fert. input	cutting dates						
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October
MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.26	0.44	0.63	0.48	0.45	0.31	
MG5 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0	0.24	0.43	0.65	0.48	0.72	0.28	
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	0				0.62			
MG5/MG8 <sup>T</sup> cut/grazed	50N10P50K				0.41			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	0				0.60			
MG5/8 <sup>T</sup> cut	200N75P200K				0.48			
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	0				0.06			0.07
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 40P				0.15			0.16
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	inorg 44N4P52K				0.06			0.08
MG5 <sup>Bratof</sup> cut	org 88N8P104K12Mg				0.06			0.09
MG10 cut/grazed	0 (prev imp)				0.21			
M24 grazed	0	0.13	0.14	0.22	0.18	0.1	0.11	
M23 grazed	0	0.1	0.19	0.23	0.23	0.12	0.12	

Key = as in Appendix table 1

**Appendix table 11. Metabolizable energy value (MJ/kg dry matter) of cut herbage from some semi-natural, agriculturally improved and fertilized grasslands.**

Community type (NVC association)	Reference/source	Fertilizer input	early May	late May	early June	late June	July	August	September	October
MG5/8	Kirkham & Tallowin, (1995)	0		10.2			8.9		8.2	8.1
MG5/8	Kirkham & Tallowin, (1995)	0 (prev 200N,P&K)		10.5			8.3		7.7	7.9
MG5/8	Kirkham & Wilkins (1994)	0					7.5			9.7
MG10	Tallowin & Smith (unpub)	0 (prev imp)					7.9			
M23/M24	Tallowin and Smith, (1996)	0					6.5		6.1	
MG6/MG13	Korevaar, (1986)	0	11.3	10.5	9.6	8.7	8.6	8.4		

Average ME of permanent pastures at 16 sites in the UK over 4 yr period receiving either 0N or 150N was 10.9 at 4 weekly cutting

Average ME of permanent pastures at 16 sites in the UK over 4 yr period receiving 300N was 11.0 at 4 weekly cutting

Average ME of perennial ryegrass leys at 16 sites in the UK over 3 yr period receiving 0N was 11.1 at 4 weekly cutting

Average ME of perennial ryegrass leys at 16 sites in the UK over 3 yr period receiving either 150 or 300N was 11.2 at 4 weekly cutting

Average ME of permanent pastures at 8 sites in the UK over 4 yr period receiving 0N was 10.3 at 8 weekly cutting

Average ME of permanent pastures at 8 sites in the UK over 4 yr period receiving either 150 or 300N was 10.2 and 10.4, respectively, at 8 weekly cutting

Average ME of perennial ryegrass leys at 8 sites in the UK over 3 yr period receiving either 0 or 150N was 10.7 at 8 weekly cutting

Average ME of perennial ryegrass leys at 8 sites in the UK over 3 yr period receiving 300N was 10.6 at 8 weekly cutting

Average ME of perennial ryegrass =white clover leys at 8 sites in the UK over 3 yr period receiving 0N was 10.6 at 8 weekly cutting