

Regulating unwanted plants on mountain pastures by good pasture management



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Objective

- Gathering knowledge about weed and shrub control in mountain pastures
- Make knowledge easily accessible

Method

- Survey among experts
 - from science
 - advisory services
 - nature conservation
 - agricultural practice
- + Literature review

Output

- Manual on regulation of 24 weeds and shrubs
- Specific measures for each unwanted plant
- Available for free in German, Italian, French



Results

Regulation strategies:



Establish site-adapted use !

(appropriate grazing pressure, timing, grazers). Unwanted plants are either promoted by over- or undergrazing.



Avoid herbicides !

Broad-spectrum herbicides create gaps recolonized by weeds again. Often, selective herbicides are missing.

Avoid disturbances !



Unwanted plants germinate in open soil.



Act early !

The more dominant an unwanted plant has become, the more effort is needed for regulation.

- Unwanted plants...**
- ... are unattractive for livestock
 - low nutrient content
 - thorny, spiny, hairy, woody, bitter or toxic
 - ... outcompete fodder plants
 - ... reduce biodiversity

Conclusion

Sustainable regulation means to be more persistent than the unwanted plant.