

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVE BY PADDOCKING WITH CATTLE OF SUBALPINE GRASSLAND FORM THE BUCEGI MOUNTAINS

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### Abstract

*Permanent grasslands from sub-alpine in the Bucegi Massif located at 1800 - 2200 m altitude have resulted after deforestation of spruce groves (*Picea abies*) and juniper shrubs (*Pinus mugo*). Mostly of these grasslands are degraded, being invaded by *Nardus stricta* species, requiring the improvement operations. In this way researches were carried out by paddocking with sheep and less with cattle, during the grazing season. In 2008 it has been setup an experimental field, with the following experimental factors: the intensity of paddocking 0; 2; 4; 6 nights/cow/6 m<sup>2</sup>, herbicide, over-seeding and phosphorus fertilization. In the second stage, in 2013, it was paddocked again with an intensity of 4 nights/cow/6 m<sup>2</sup>, with the purpose to remark the residual effect of improving pasture factors from the first stage. The results highlight the favourable effect for a long period of herbicides, overseeding, phosphorus fertilization and paddocking with cattle on *Nardus stricta* degraded grasslands. By this method, the degraded grassy carpets have been improved during the first stage by conventional methods, creating optimal conditions for practicing an organic agriculture, after two years of conversion.*

**Keywords:** grasslands of *Nardus stricta* species, herbicides, over-seeding, paddocking with cattle.

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