**Germination Differences Between Forage Crop and Non-Forage Crop Plant Species and the Potential for Their Overuse in Ecological Experiments**

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Forage crops, which are essential for livestock consumption, are widely distributed and naturalized in various plant communities. Due to their long history of cultivation and commercial seed sales, human selection may have led to improved germination traits in forage crops. Using greenhouse and field experiments, we investigated whether selection on forage crops has led to higher seed germination and lower dormancy in forages compared to non-forages. We also tested whether forages are overrepresented (relative to the background frequency in Ontario) in previously published pairwise competition experiments. We found that forage species exhibited significantly higher percent germination rates, lower seed dormancy, and faster germination than non-forage species. Additionally, in all but one competition experiment, forages were over-represented. Our results indicate that forage crops have favourable germination traits, which are known to be ecologically significant. High germination rates in this group have likely led to forages being overrepresented in ecological experiments where plants have been grown from seed. This overuse could lead to a biased understanding of ecological processes.