CIRSIUM OLERACEUM (L.) SCOP. IN GRASSLAND COMMUNITIES OF OLSZTYN LAKELAND

Key words: Cirsium oleraceum, natural grasslands, nutrient components

Summary

Research was carried out on moist grasslands of Olsztyn Lakeland in the years 1998-2000. Out of 49 plant communities with a marked share of Cirsium oleraceum (L.) Scop. 31 were located on organic and 18 on mineral soils. Plant species were assessed with the Braun-Blanquet method. Soil and Cirsium oleraceum (L.) Scop. samples were taken to determine physical properties and chemical composition. Chemical analysis of the soil and plant material were made with the commonly applied methods.

In communities with Cirsium oleraceum (L.) Scop. the valuable species were mainly represented by Alopecurus pratensis L., Festuca pratensis Huds., Poa pratensis L. and Lotus uliginosus Schk. On organic soil, coverage coefficient for these species was low. Regardless of the soil, examined plant communities were dominated by the species of low nutritive value: Deschampsia caespitose (L.) P.Beauv., Holcus lanatus L., Ranunculus repens L., Rumex acetosa L. Soils under examined plant communities showed similar actual moisture and water capacity which proved their permanent moisture, they also contained high percent of organic matter.

Cirsium oleraceum (L.) Scop. enriched the fodder from grasslands of generally simplified plant composition Dry matter of the plant contained: total protein 97.0-194.0, crude ash 116.0-182.0, calcium 32.6-53.7, potassium 11.9-43.0 and magnesium 1.6-8.7 g.kg⁻¹.

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