

## YIELD AND FEEDING VALUE OF GRAZING SWARDS WITH DIFFERENT BOTANICAL COMPOSITION

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**Summary.** During 1999-2004 field experiments on *Eutric Albeluvisol* (Jlb<sub>2</sub>) medium heavy loam soil of Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture with agrochemical characteristics: pH<sub>KCl</sub> 5.5; available P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O – 136 and 115 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> were performed. Pasture swards consisted of local breeds of white clover, red clover, perennial ryegrass and meadow grass. Swards once per year were fertilized by P<sub>60</sub>K<sub>60</sub> and grass swards by N<sub>240</sub> in spring and after every grazing of heifers. White clover-grass swards were comparable with grass swards without N (5.05-5.08 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). The yield of this swards influenced the number of the small leaf of white clover. Because of dry seasons during experimental period the unfavourable climatic conditions for white clover swards were registered. Pure grass sward, fertilised with mineral nitrogen, produced the heaviest yield. Among the mixed swards the most productive was the sward mixture including both white and red clover with ryegrass (3.10-11.41 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). The amount of rainfall significantly (at P<sub>01</sub>) influenced the productivity of mixed swards. The nutritive value of all swards met the requirements for grazing cattle. Mixture composition of N unfertilised swards had no statistically significantly effect on herbage quality. However, the quality of grass sward, fertilised by N<sub>240</sub> was significantly different. The largest yield of quality components was recorded in fertilized grass sward, and in mixed swards consisted of red clover, white clover and ryegrass.

**Key words:** mixed swards, grazing, dry matter yield, forage quality.