

Research report

Botanical monitoring (Action D3) in the framework of „Conservation of dry grasslands in Central Hungary” Life+ Nature (LIFE NAT/HU/001028)

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We conducted the baseline vegetation surveys to have an overview about the initial vegetation compositions of the restoration sites:

‘Epöli szarmata vonulat’ Natura 2000 site (Gyermely-Máriaalom)
‘Alsó-Tápió és patak völgyek’ Natura 2000 site (Tápiósági földvár)
‘Érd-tétnyi plató’ Natura 2000 site (Tétnyi-fennsík)
‘Gödöllői-dombság peremhegyei’ Natura 2000 site (Fóti Somlyó)

We surveyed the vegetation of the sites to be restored in the end of 2014 or the beginning of 2015. We also surveyed the vegetation of donor sites at Alsó-Tápió és patak völgyek site which will serve as hay donor sites for the hay transfer restoration action.

We conducted the surveys in September and October 2014. Based on a pilot survey together with colleagues of DINPD, we designated sampling blocks within the restoration sites. In each restoration site we designated blocks based on the area of the restored sites as follows: (i) in the biggest restoration sites (>5ha) we designated 3 blocks; in the intermediate-size restoration sites (0.5-5ha) we designated 2 blocks and (iii) in the small-sized restoration sites (<0,5ha) we designated 1 block. Each block consisted of four 4×4-m permanent plots. In the plots we recorded the species list and the percentage cover of vascular plants, cover and thickness of litter and total vegetation height (see in Appendices) and also took documentary photographs in each restoration site.

We surveyed the following vegetation types:

‘Epöli szarmata vonulat’ Natura 2000 site (Gyermely-Máriaalom)

- 1, *Black locust dominated patches*. Small patches invaded by black locust, characterised by nitrophilous weed species, with some loess grassland specialists.
- 2, *Former grassland areas affected by the encroachment of native shrubs*.
- 3, *Extended shrubland*. Closed shrubland, which does not hold nature conservation value.

‘Alsó-Tápió és patak völgyek’ Natura 2000 site (Tápiósági földvár)

- 1, *Extended shrubland*. Closed shrubland, which does not hold nature conservation value.
- 2, *Donor sites for hay transfer*. Loess and steppic grasslands with high nature conservation value; which are proper places for collecting propagules of target species for hay transfer.

‘Érd-tétényi plató’ Natura 2000 site (Tétényi-fennsík)

- 1, *Former grassland areas affected by the encroachment of native shrubs*.
- 2, *Abandoned road*. Abandoned road and roadside with spontaneous grassland recovery.

‘Gödöllői-dombság peremhegyei’ Natura 2000 site (Fóti Somlyó)

- 1, *Oldfield invaded by *Solidago gigantea**. Former arable land in which the spontaneous grassland recovery has been initiated, but vegetation development stucked in a *Solidago*-dominated stage.
- 2, *Abandoned road*. Abandoned road and roadside with spontaneous grassland recovery.