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Botanical Composition of the Park Grass Plots at Rothamsted 1856-1976



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Rothamsted Research (1978) *Notes on Tables 7-45* ; Botanical Composition Of The Park Grass Plots At Rothamsted 1856-1976, pp 21R - 21R - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23637/ERADOC-1-156>

Notes on Tables 7-45

The following tables give details of the botanical composition of all Park Grass plots throughout the duration of the experiment. They have been compiled from data in Lawes & Gilbert (1859), Lawes, Gilbert & Masters (1882), Brenchley and Warington (1958), Rothamsted Annual Reports until 1939, Numerical Results of the Field Experiments at Rothamsted since then and the present (1973-76) analyses. However, to minimise errors in reproduction, reference has also been made to original papers where possible and the tables include results for some years not previously published.

The data are necessarily condensed both to reduce the bulk of the tables, and also since it is questionable whether the accuracy of the sampling method justifies presentation of minor components to many decimal places. The tables were assembled primarily to enable the major changes with time in botanical composition within plots to be traced for the present paper but should also serve as a source of information for future reference. In the tables of complete analyses the species are listed in alphabetical order within three main groups, grasses, legumes (where they occur) and other species and the following abbreviations are used throughout: t = trace, 0.1% or less; s = small amount 0.2-0.5% inclusive. Care should be taken in interpreting differences between species which are evidently minor constituents of the herbage: little emphasis should be placed on a difference in one category in one season and it should be borne in mind that at this level the difference within a category may sometimes be larger than between categories. It is important therefore that comparisons of minor components should take account of the data for a number of years. Only species which have contributed at least 0.5% on at least one occasion are included in the tables so that the number of species listed should not be taken as an absolute measure of the number occurring on a plot.

Tables 38-45 give details of the botanical composition of plots analysed during 1973-76. To maintain continuity with the past records results are given to one decimal place but contributions of less than 0.05% are denoted by t. Because results were originally calculated to three decimal places, the totals shown may not agree exactly with the sums of individual species. Since the plots differ greatly in total yield the results are also presented as amounts of the different species per unit area of land.