



Call for abstracts

23rd European Grassland Federation Symposium

Multi-species swards

15 -17 September 2025, Reading, UK

The British Grassland Society is pleased to invite you to the 23rd European Grassland Federation Symposium that will be held from 15 -17 September 2025 at the University of Reading, UK. The subject of the symposium is **Multi-species swards**.

The EGF symposium 2025 will cover a broad range of themes relating to multi-species swards including aspects of drought and flooding resilience, soil fertility and structure, forage nutritive value, animal health benefits, grazing and sward management and monitoring, and the use of multi-species swards in arable rotations, amongst others. The introduction will focus on, and a common thread running through each theme will be, the consideration of the successful translation of research to farm level and farmer uptake. It is critically important that research remains relevant and addresses the key information needs of the farmer.

Whilst multi-species swards have global relevance, **the symposium topic reflects the current value of multi-species swards as alternatives to monoculture grass swards in temperate grassland production systems** and the growing interest in regenerative and sustainable management practice. The main focus will be related to sown multi-species grasslands, however, species rich natural and semi-natural grasslands may also be considered.

We invite you to submit abstracts to one of the three themes of the Symposium:

Theme summary

1. Agronomic considerations of multi-species swards

This may include but is not restricted to:

- Extension of the growing season
- Morphological specificities, like rooting depth, to adapt to climatic changes
- Species mix complexity
- Productivity response to plant diversity
- Yield stability
- Grazing effects, e.g. effect of grazing rotation length and sward management on sward composition
- Conservation techniques for multi-species swards
- Designing mixtures for specific purposes and locations

2. Animal production impacts of multi-species swards

This may include but is not restricted to:

- Nutritive analysis - analytical techniques
- Nutritive value

- Digestive efficiency, e.g. degradability of components (protein, fibre)
- Animal health and welfare, e.g. benefits of tannins, anthelmintic properties
- Feeding behaviour, e.g. grazing selection

3. Impacts of multi-species swards on the environment

This may include but is not restricted to:

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Methane emissions and rumen fermentation characteristics
- Resilience to environmental disturbance
- Water security
- Plant protection in crop rotations
- Carbon sequestration
- Soil structure and health
- Prevention of soil erosion
- Fauna diversity/biodiversity
- Nutrient cycling, e.g. fertiliser inputs, use of slurry and farmyard manure, legacy effects in arable rotations, denitrification inhibitors

Abstracts should be submitted through the OASES system:

<https://oases.wageningenacademic.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=inloggen.inloggen>

The abstract should correspond to one of the three themes

The title is allowed to be a maximum 100 keystrokes

The abstract in total is allowed to be a maximum 2500 keystrokes

The body of the abstract is allowed to be maximum 200 words

The deadline for submitting abstracts is midnight **15 January 2025**. (N.B. This is the final deadline). The Scientific Committee will select the oral papers and the posters. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to write a full paper (three pages) with a deadline of the **14 March 2025**. The papers will be subject to a further review. All accepted papers will be published in Grassland Science in Europe.

Further information can be found on the website <https://www.britishgrassland.com/egf-2025/>. For up-to-date information on the Symposium (program, excursions and social events) please check the website regularly.

We are looking forward to your contribution and to meeting you in Reading in 2025.