**Cotoneaster horizontalis** on calcareous grasslands in Belgium: from ornament to management

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**Why?**
- Calcareous grasslands: • among the most species-rich habitats in Western Europe • have strongly decreased since the end of the 19th century
- **C. horizontalis**: • included in the black list of invasive species in Belgium • alters the composition and structure of different calcareous grassland communities in other countries

**Invasion status on calcareous grasslands**
**Method**
- Field survey: count of **C. horizontalis** individuals.

**Assessment on calcareous grasslands**: 7 invaded sites out of the 9 investigated. (small individuals; large individuals; density/ha)

**Impacts**
**Method**
- Comparing native species occurrence, species richness and evenness between invaded and uninvaded plots

**Native species occurrence** is significantly affected by the presence of **C. horizontalis** for 4 species and marginally affected for 4 other species.

**Management tests**
**Method**
- Tests of mechanical and chemical techniques in the field and measurements of efficiency, cost and feasibility.

**Cut stump application** is the most efficient method after one year. 
- Efficiency: 100% 
- Yield: 4.3 individuals/hour.man 
- Cost: 36,9 €/10individuals

**Take home message**
- The naturalization process of **C. horizontalis** in Belgian calcareous grasslands is effective. 
- Calcareous grasslands communities are affected by the presence of **C. horizontalis**. 
- The best management method on short term is to cut and paint with herbicide. 
- **C. horizontalis** is still present in 53% of the sale catalogs of horticulturists in Southern Belgium: propagules are continuously provided.