

Meadows Matter - Online Toolkit - MODULE 1

Module 1 is designed to make students aware of similarities and differences in various grassland types including plant diversity. The focus is mainly on differences between extensively used meadows and intensively used meadows. Definitions and preferences are discussed. Further on, students will experience that the perception of a meadow lies in the observer's eye. Two learning activities, one card game and one outdoor (optional indoor) activity will help students to acquire this knowledge.

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Examples of Factsheets and Learning materials

Family: Asteraceae Species: *Taraxacum officinale* (Dandelion)



Fig. 1. *Taraxacum officinale* (Source: www.BioLib.de)



Characterization: Height: 5-40 cm

Flower baskets single, 2,5-5 cm width with golden yellow ray florets. Seed head conglobate, stems glabrous and hollow. Plant contains chyle. Leaves in basal rosette, pinnatifid or with almost entire margins. Taproot.

Habitat:

Meadows, pastures, fields, lawns. Grows in fresh, nutrient rich soils.

Do you know?

Children use flower as a 'blowball'. Plant contains bitter constituent which are beneficial for digestive disorders. The high content of potassium promotes diuresis. Young leaves are used as salad. Flowers were used to colour butter yellowish.

Source: Spohn et al. (2008) *Was blüht denn da?* Franckh-Kosmos Verlags-GmbH & Co.KG, Stuttgart.

Module 1: Learning Activity 1.1. 'What makes a meadow a meadow?'

1. Round: Rank pictures after **beauty**:

Most beautiful



Less beautiful

Picture number

This meadow is most beautiful because...

2. Round: Rank pictures after **usefulness**:

Most useful



Less useful

Picture number

This meadow is most useful because...

3. Round: Rank pictures after **naturalness**:

Most useful



Less useful

Picture number

This meadow is most natural because...

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