

Master thesis opportunity

Establishment success of plant species within sown wildflower fields Evaluation of new regional seed mixtures (BF 2) for perennial flower strips in Lower Saxony

The establishment of sown wildflower strips or fields is a widely adopted agri-environmental measure to promote the diversity of flower-visiting insects and other arthropods in agricultural landscapes. However, the attractiveness of sown flower fields largely depends on the establishment of the sown plant species and changes in species composition over time. The aim of this thesis is to investigate the temporal development and community assembly of plant species within sown perennial flowers fields (BF 2 mixture) over three years. Based on existing data (2023, 2024) and own vegetation relevées in 2025 the Master student will analyze plant species diversity and composition in relation to the sowing date, year and other environmental factors, such as landscape diversity or pre-crop types.



Pictures l.t.r.: C. Westphal, K. Küpers, S. Schüler

We are looking for a highly motivated Master student who is interested in vegetation ecology and managing biodiversity within agricultural landscapes.

Field work: From May to July 2025, assessment of taxonomic and functional plant species diversity of one flower field located within 37 study landscapes in the county of Northeim with vegetation relevées.

Tasks: Vegetation sampling of three year old flower fields, identification of plant species and data entry and statistical analyses with R.

Requirements: You should be interested in vegetation ecology, fieldwork and have basic knowledge in plant identification. You should have a driving license and good data management skills with Excel, basic knowledge of R is an asset. You should be willing to work independently.

Opportunities: You will be working in a cutting-edge transdisciplinary project (KOOPERATIV: www.uni-goettingen.de/kooperativ/project). You gain experience in fieldwork, lab work and statistical analysis as well as improve your scientific writing skills.

Period: Starting in May 2025.

If you are interested, please contact us for further details:

Functional Agrobiodiversity & Agroecology, Georg-August-University Göttingen

Prof. Dr. Catrin Westphal

catrin.westphal@uni-goettingen.de

Dr. Annika Hass

ahass@uni-goettingen.de

Project website: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/628701.html>



Funded by: