

Effect of browsing on timber production and quality

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Loss of increment and decrease of timber quality was investigated in the consequence of seedlings' browsing. Sample territories were marked out in beech and sessile oak pole stands having been browsed in seedling's age by ungulates. We chose control territories of the same size in stands which were not browsed because they were protected by fence. The number of the sample territories in each stand was 10, with a 10x10 m size. We registered the number of the trees and we measured in both species the diameter at breast height (1.3 m) of the stems, the height of the trees and the malformations of the stems occurred lower than 2 m (Zamora et al., 2001), such as tortuosity and crotch. The browse of the seedlings didn't affect significantly the stem quality of the pole stands. During the commercial treatments the damaged stems can be removed, action eased by the fact that the damaged stems have been distributed evenly. However, browsing negatively affected the growth of the trees, which fact caused economic loss for the owner.