

Vegetation composition influences the response of Alpine grassland to drought

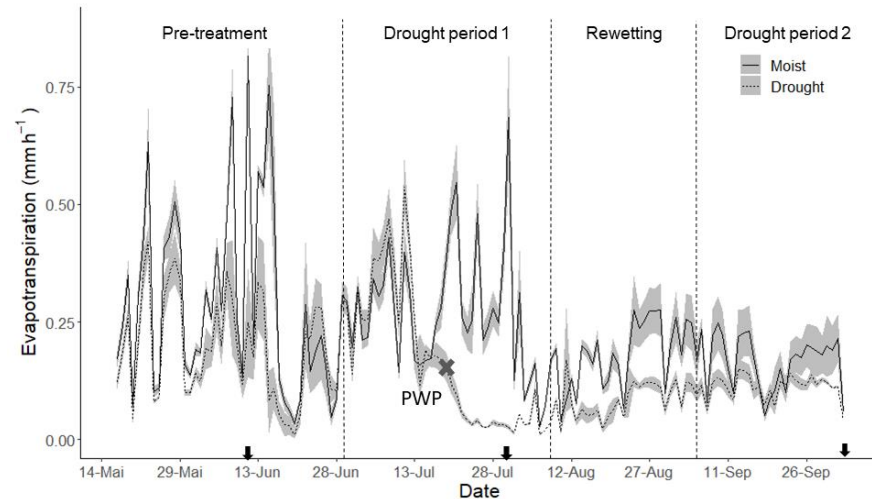
Implications of drought on **water-use strategies** of Alpine grasslands:

- How does drought affect **water use** and **biomass production**?
- What are the implications of the plant community on the **water-use strategy** followed by a grassland community?

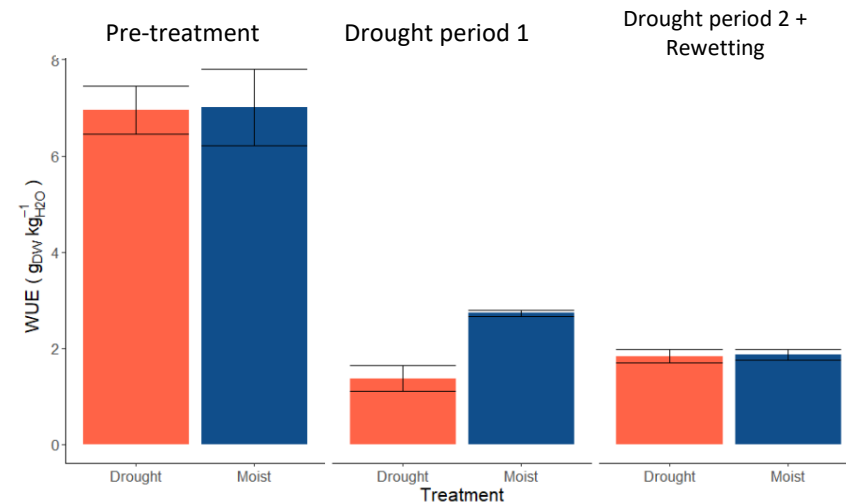


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Evapotranspiration



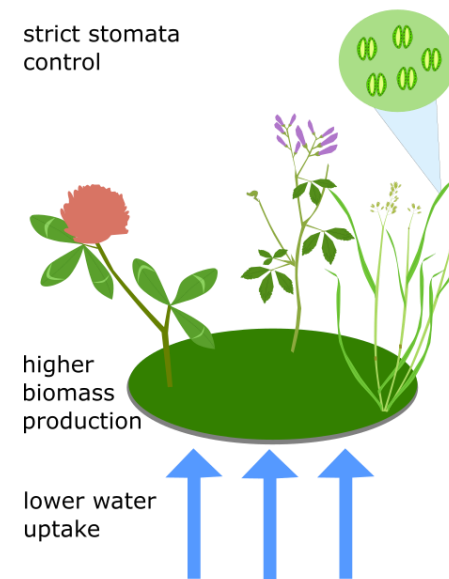
Water Use Efficiency



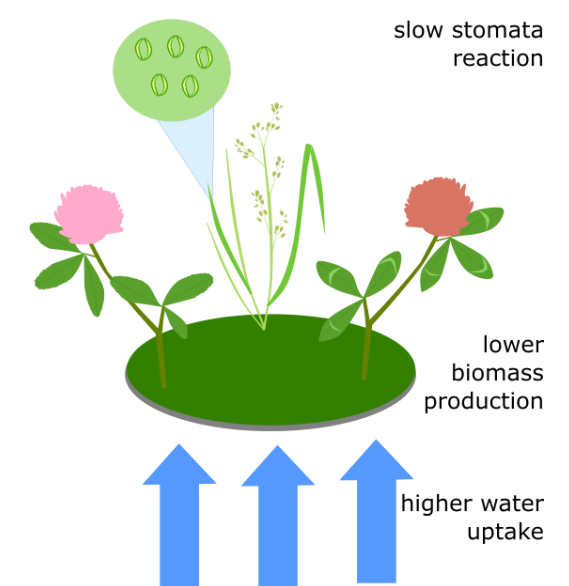
Effects of plant composition

Under drought treatment:

Vegetation 'dry':
water saving strategy



Vegetation 'humid':
water spending strategy



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Conclusions:

- **Water use** and **biomass production** in Alpine grasslands are only affected by severe droughts
- Plant composition determines the **water-use strategy** followed by the grassland community
- A shift in plant composition enhances **WUE** after a drought period