Background
Meadows is one of Europe’s most species-rich habitats, with many threatened species. Traditionally managed using cutting instruments like scythe or knife mower, a new mowing technique has emerged: the grass trimmer. However, concern prevail that it might have a negative effect on meadow vegetation.

Aim: compare different mowing techniques in their effect on the flora over 13 yrs

Methods
Location: Sättra ängar, Östergötland, Sweden
Method: Experiment 2001-12, comparing three treatments: grass trimmer at 0 or 5 cm cutting height, and knife mower. Flora surveyed on seven occasions.

Results
Odds ratio: no difference in the occurrence of indicator of good or poor management comparing cutting vs grass trimmer
Meta-regression: no changes in odds ratio over time
PRC: no trend in composition over time due to treatments

Conclusion
• Treatments did not differ in their impact on indicators of good or poor management, nor on the general composition of the vegetation
• So all three methods may be helpful, and there is no evidence for a grass trimmer being detrimental from the point of view of conservation

Acknowledgements
The foundation in memory of Oscar and Lili Lamm provided financial support. Special thanks to Kenneth Strand, who faithfully conducted the mowing, and those involved in vegetation surveys.

Contact information
Malin Tälle
malta043@student.liu.se
+46(0)738011053