

Interactive comment on “Rapid revegetation by sowing seed mixtures of shrub and herbaceous species” by J. J. Feng et al.

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We appreciate the opinions of the reviewer.

We agree that the effect of other ecological factors should be studied to improve the potential use of generated data. The interaction between different herbs in this paper was not discussed, but this interaction may affect the performance of plant community when different kinds of herbaceous species are sowed together. More experiments are needed to study the effect of environmental factors and the inter-specific interaction.

In the revised version we added a section to show plant dynamics in 2014. The performance of plant community was consistent with our conclusion drawn based on the data collected in 2013.

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We agree that a mechanistic interpretation of the results is appropriate. Herbaceous species have different traits. In our experiment, three different types of herbs were found, i.e. slow-growing stable species (*F. arundinacea*), fast-growing unstable species (*O. violaceus*), and fast-growing stable species (*V. philippica*). Shrubs, slow-growing stable species, and fast-growing unstable species should not be used alone because they cannot cover the ground fast or they cannot maintain a long period of good coverage. A small seeding rate of fast-growing stable species should be used to ensure a fair coverage against erosion and species with other traits should be added to enhance the stability of plant community. This interpretation will be incorporated in the revised version.

We agree that we have replicated samples instead of replicated treatments to test for the effect of Ratio by mass. We admit that our data are inadequate for assessing the treatment effect but the information on variability within each plot may still be of interest. So we only present the means and standard errors to discuss the putative effect of the treatment in the revised version.

A table with characterization of the target species is added in the revised version.

Incorrect English expressions are improved in the revised version.

Best regards.

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 7, 369, 2015.

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