Exotic grassland species have stronger priority effects than natives (Wilsey et al. 2014 *in press* New Phytologist) regardless of whether they are cultivated or genotypes from their native range.

During community assembly, the arrival order of species can vary and this can alter the outcome of species interactions. When ‘species that are present at some early phase of community development influence other species that arrive at some later time’ priority effects are said to have occurred (Morin 1999). We tested whether priority effects differ between situations when an exotic (non-native, or “invasive”) species arrives first vs. when a native species arrives first. Exotic species treatments included using genotypes from their native range (‘wild-types’) and cultivated genotypes to determine whether differences were due to human development of cultivars. Exotic species had higher germination rates and earlier emergence dates than native species, and differences were found in both ‘wild’ and ‘cultivated’ exotics. Exotic species reduced biomass and species diversity of later arriving species much more than native species, regardless of seed source. These results suggest that in grassland situations where priority effects are likely to be strong: 1) effects will be greater when an exotic species arrives first than when a native species arrives first, and 2) this difference is not merely a result of exotic species being cultivated, but that it might be a general native-exotic difference that deserves further study.