# Pictures as a tools for assessments in field trials

By Martin Gejl Owner of Agrolab A/S



# What should we look at when developing new methods for assessment

- At least as good as the used standard method
- Fast and reliable
- Better documentation
- Equipment should be easy to use and cost effective

### Counting of emergence in field crops

Number of plants : 165



# Why did we want to develop a computer counting from images

- Counting in the field is time consuming
- Both counting in the field and computer counting will not be exact
  - But with computer counting we can document how wrong we are
- > You will also get data on green leaf area with out extra work

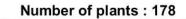
#### How did we do and what did we learn

- Started with some good pictures from different crops
- > We have used MatLab to analyse the pictures it could also be other programs
- Experimenting with light settings and how to identify a plant
  - Peas, beans, sugar beets, mais, oil seed rape was easy (not so many plants per square meter = Less risk for overlapping)
  - Cereals I more difficult due to density of crop
- So allot of time was used on correcting the algoritme to different BBCH and crops and allot of manual counting on pictures to find out how wrong the computer are
- Problems: timing of BBCH, color of plants (rye can be very purple in early stages, which can be difficult to separate from ground color)

## Timing is essential

Number of plants : 165





#### Future development

- Drones
  - Today we would be able to make emergence if we use plant coverage or similar instead of counts
  - When the multispectral cameras get cheaper it will most likely be possible to distinguise different fungals from the air.
- Development of image recognition
  - Some of the most advange algoritme can already today recognize different weed species from a picture, this could develop fast.
  - The technic is there, but is the money there as well, and are the regulatory authorities ready?