

Graminoid Biomass

Field and Lab Guide

Task

Measure Graminoid Biomass in Land Cover Sample Sites. **Note:** Graminoid refers to grass-like vegetation only.

What You Need

- Small bean bag
- Graminoid Biomass Data Sheet*
- Pen or pencil
- Blindfold
- Grass clippers or strong scissors
- Small brown paper bags
- Species ID keys and/or other local species guides
- Balance

In the Field

1. Blindfold your partner and have him or her throw a beanbag somewhere in the site.
 - a. Mark a one-meter square around the beanbag to take a random sample.
 - b. Using the garden clippers, clip all the vegetation close to the ground within the square. Do not collect any unattached leaves or litter.
 - c. Sort the clippings into green and brown portions. Any clipping with even a little green is considered green.
 - d. Place the green and brown portions into separate brown paper bags. Label the bags as your teacher directs you.
2. Repeat step 1 two more times.



In the Classroom

3. Calculating Graminoid Biomass:
 - a. Check the temperature of the drying oven, it should read between 50 and 70 degrees Celsius.
 - b. Put the labeled bags in the drying oven.
 - c. Use a balance to measure the mass (g) of each bag once a day.
 - d. When the mass is the same two days in a row, the samples are completely dry.
 - e. Record the mass of each bag and its contents on the *Graminoid Biomass Data Sheet*.
 - f. Shake out the contents of one bag and weigh the empty bag. Record this mass. Repeat this step for each bag.
 - g. Calculate the mass of the graminoid vegetation (graminoid biomass) using the following formula:

$$\text{Graminoid Biomass} = \text{Mass of Sample and Bag} - \text{Mass of Empty Bag}$$

- h. Record the graminoid biomass of each sample on the *Graminoid Biomass Data Sheet*.