

Ecological Site Descriptions

Plant Group Descriptions

Plant group descriptions are assigned to each species within an ecological site description to provide additional information about the plant's growth, structure, and response to disturbance. Separate indicators have been developed for grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Plants are grouped by the following criteria:

GRASSES:

- A. Season of growth: Warm-season or Cool-season
- B. Stature/productivity: Tall to medium height (generally > 6") or Short height (generally < 6")
- C. Growth form: Sod or Bunch
- D. Response to continuous disturbance (e.g., unmanaged grazing): Decreases or Increases with disturbance

FORBS:

- A. Season of growth: Warm-season or Cool-season
- B. Response to continuous disturbance (e.g., unmanaged grazing): Decreases or Increases with disturbance
- C. Type of Root system: Rhizomes/Stolons (R/S) or Taproot or Fibrous or Bulb

SHRUBS:

- A. Response to continuous disturbance (e.g., unmanaged grazing): Decreases or Increases with disturbance
- B. Stature (height): Tall (>3 feet) or Medium (1–3 feet) or Short (< 1feet)

Plant Group Characteristics

Plant Group	Plant Type			Growing Season		Stature, Grasses		Growth Form		Response to Dist.		Root System, Forbs				Stature, Shrubs			
	G	F	S	Warm	Cool	Tall/Med	Short	Sod	Bunch	Dec	Inc	R/S	Tap	Fib.	Bulb	Tall	Med	Short	
1	X			X		X			X	X									
2	X				X	X			X	X									
3	X			X			X		X	X									
4	X				X		X		X	X									
5	X			X		X		X		X									
6	X				X	X		X		X									
7	X			X			X	X		X									
8	X				X		X	X		X									
9	X			X		X			X		X								
10	X				X	X			X		X								
11	X			X			X		X		X								
12	X				X		X		X		X								
13	X			X		X		X			X								
14	X				X	X		X			X								
15	X			X			X	X			X								
16	X				X		X	X			X								
17		X		X						X		X							
18		X			X					X		X							
19		X		X							X	X							
20		X			X						X	X							
21		X		X						X			X						
22		X			X					X			X						
23		X		X							X			X					
24		X			X						X		X						
25		X		X						X				X					
26		X			X					X				X					
27		X		X							X			X					
28		X			X						X			X					
29		X		X						X					X				
30		X			X					X					X				
31		X		X							X				X				
32		X			X						X				X				
33			X							X						X			
34			X							X							X		
35			X							X								X	
36			X								X					X			
37			X								X						X		
38			X								X								X

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Grass Plant Groups:

Bunch grasses:

1. warm, tall or medium, bunch, decreases, grass
2. cool, tall or medium, bunch, decreases, grass
3. warm, short, bunch, decreases, grass
4. cool, short, bunch, decreases, grass

Sod Grasses:

5. warm, tall or medium, sod, decreases, grass
6. cool, tall or medium, sod, decreases, grass
7. warm, short, sod, decreases, grass
8. cool, short, sod, decreases, grass

Bunch Grass, Increases with Disturbance:

9. warm, tall or medium, bunch, increases, grass
10. cool, tall or medium, bunch, increases, grass
11. warm, short, bunch, increases, grass
12. cool, short, bunch, increases, grass

Sod Grass, Increases with Disturbance:

13. warm, tall or medium, sod, increases, grass
14. cool, tall or medium, sod, increases, grass
15. warm, short, sod, increases, grass
16. cool, short, sod, increases, grass

Forb Plant Groups:

17. warm, decreases, r/s, forb
18. cool, decreases, r/s, forb
19. warm, increases, r/s, forb
20. cool, increases, r/s, forb
21. warm, decreases, tap, forb
22. cool, decreases, tap, forb
23. warm, increases, tap, forb
24. cool, increases, tap, forb
25. warm, decreases, fibrous, forb
26. cool, decreases, fibrous, forb
27. warm, increases, fibrous, forb
28. cool, increases, fibrous, forb
29. warm, decreases, bulb, forb
30. cool, decreases, bulb, forb
31. warm, increases, bulb, forb
32. cool, increases, bulb, forb

Shrub Plant Groups:

33. tall, decreases, shrub
34. medium, decreases, shrub
35. short, decreases, shrub
36. tall, increases, shrub
37. medium, increases, shrub
38. short, increases, shrub