

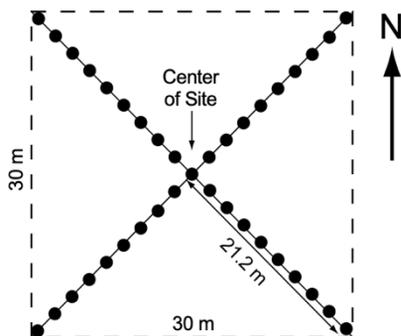
# GLOBE Biometry: Vegetative Covers Field Guide

## Task:

Take ground and canopy cover measurements while pacing half-diagonals to determine the MUC class of your Land Cover or Biometry Site.

## Materials:

- Tubular densiometer
- Compass
- Local species ID guide
- Pencil
- Clipboard
- [Vegetative Covers Data Sheet](#)



Land Cover Sample Site with the four 21.2 m half- diagonals (in the NE, SE, SW and NW directions) for sampling.

# GLOBE Vegetative Covers Field Guide

## Procedure

Locate the center of your study site. This is your starting point. Take the measurements described for canopy cover and ground cover by walking the distance of a half-diagonal (21.2 m) in each of the following four directions: NE, SE, SW and NW (using a compass for bearing). Stop after each pace (2 steps) to complete the canopy and ground cover measurements.

## Canopy Cover

Look up through your densiometer at the canopy. Make sure the densiometer is vertical and the metal nut/washer is directly below the intersection of the crosshairs at the top of the tube. Look to the highest canopy.

1. If you see vegetation, twigs or branches at the crosshairs record (T) if the vegetation is a tree and (SB) if the vegetation is a shrub.
2. Identify the species name. If you do not know the genus and species but know the common name, record the common name. If you do not know the common name, collect a leaf or describe or sketch it for identification later.
3. Record the canopy type as Evergreen (E) or Deciduous (D).
4. If you do not see any vegetation record (-).



## Ground Cover

Standing with your feet shoulder-width apart, look down and observe any vegetation that is touching your foot or leg below the knee. Do not pick up your foot; only use vegetation touching you without moving. Do not measure ground cover by looking down through the densiometer!

1. If the vegetation is green (alive), record a (G). If the vegetation is brown but still attached, record a (B). If there is no vegetation, record a (-).
2. If the vegetation is green (G), record the vegetation type: graminoid (GD), forb (FB), Shrub (SB), Dwarf Shrub (DS), or other green vegetation (OG).

## Summary and Percentages

After you have completed your pacing and measurements, fill out the Summary Sheet on page 3 of the *Vegetative Covers Data Sheet* and calculate the percentages.

**Note:** If other groups walked other half-diagonals, compare your “% Tree Cover”, “% Shrub Cover” and “% Ground Cover” with the other group’s diagonal data. Average the percentages from all the groups and use these averaged values to determine the dominant land cover for data entry.

If you have enough information to determine the MUC class of your site at this point, you are done. If tree, shrub or graminoid height cannot be estimated, follow the tree and graminoid data sheets and field guides.