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:
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      \text{Graminoid Biomass} = \text{Mass of Sample and Bag} - \text{Mass of Empty Bag}
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   h. Record the graminoid biomass of each sample on the Graminoid Biomass Data Sheet.