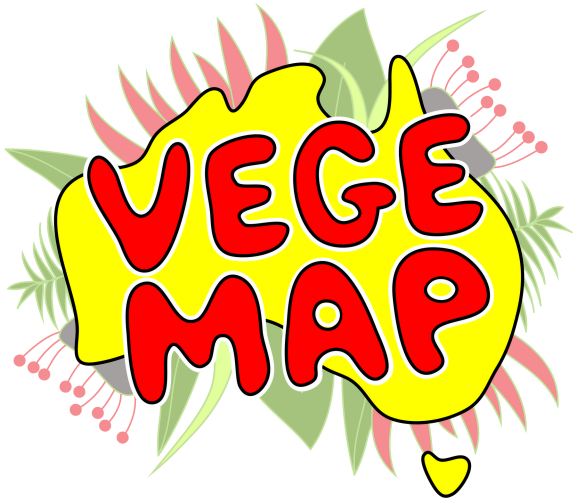
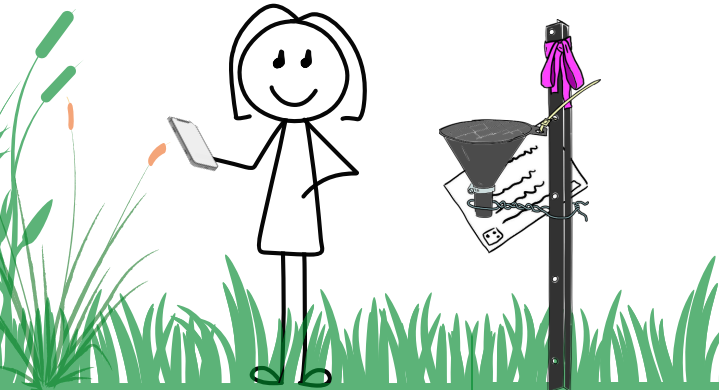
Let's do a

Plant Survey!



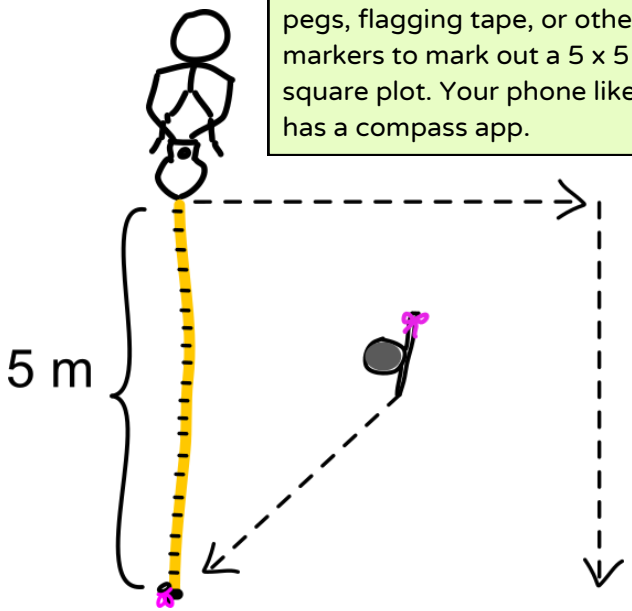
Before you start, you'll need:

- Locate a pollen trap. Or, to set up and register your own! Visit our website (see last page) if you haven't yet
- pegs or other type of marker for plots
- measuring tape (5 m or longer)
- flagging tape
- ruler or scale bar
- phone or tablet
- download the iNaturalist app & make an account
- pen/pencil



1. Set up a plot

Use your measuring tape and pegs, flagging tape, or other markers to mark out a 5 x 5 m square plot. Your phone likely has a compass app.



One way to mark plot 1 is to start at your pollen trap and take 3 big steps to the southeast and mark one corner there. Then measure out 5 m due north, mark a second corner, and so forth.

2. Record plot info

Your plot name should be your site name followed by a dot and a plot number. If your site name is "Lake George north", your first plot name is just "Lake George north.1"

Crucial data:

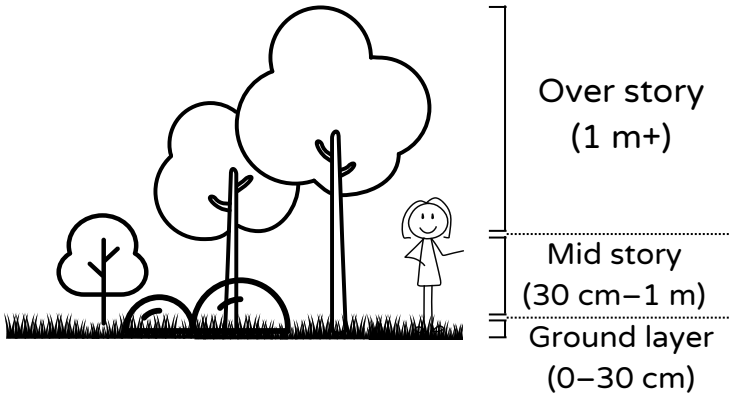
plot name: _____

lat, long: _____

elevation: _____ date: _____

3. Plant Coverage

We are going to split our plots into three layers.



• Start with the ground layer: any plant from the ground up to middle of your shin height (~30 cm). This can be grasses, herbs, small shrubs, or new trees. Use the chart on the next page to decide how much of the ground is covered in plants.

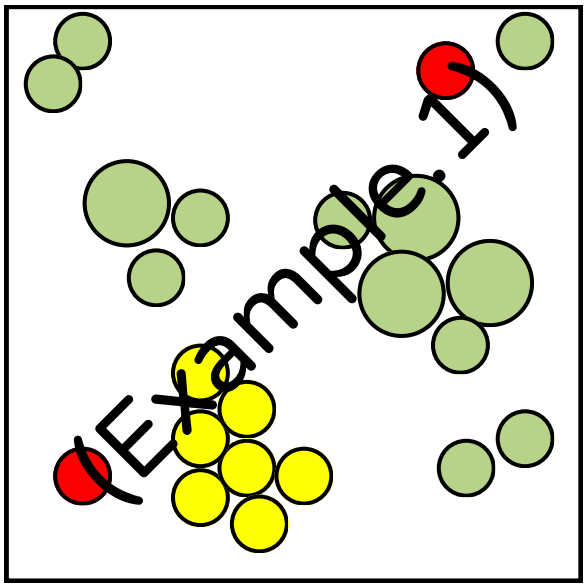
• Record on the back of this sheet or follow the link to the Plant Survey Form.

1. Use the chart on the back of this sheet to estimate the coverage score for the layer: all plants together!
2. Look for the most common plant in the layer. Take pictures of one, using the instruction in the next section, and post them to iNaturalist.
3. Write down its common and scientific names if you can, and assign it an individual coverage score.
4. Repeat for up to 4 more plants in this layer of the plot.

Again! Repeat for the other layers

Mid story is any space above mid-shin but below shoulder height that is filled with plants. These are likely larger shrubs and bushes, ferns, or small trees.

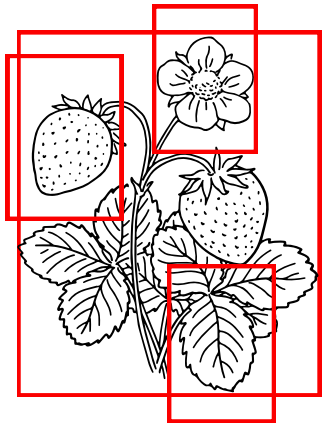
Over story is any plants above shoulder height where the plants blocks the view of the sky above you. These are typically trees.



Example.1 mid story score: 5

Plant	Score	Common name	Scientific name
A	4	Green circle	Circum viridis
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Hint: one plant can be counted in only one layer: wherever most of it's mass is. But one species can be in multiple layers, for example a sapling gum tree could be in the mid story a grown one in the over story.



Pic Tips

Photograph:

- whole plant
- leaves
- flowers
- fruit
- anything distinguishing

Ground layer score: _____

Plant	Score	Common name	Scientific name
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			

Mid story score: _____

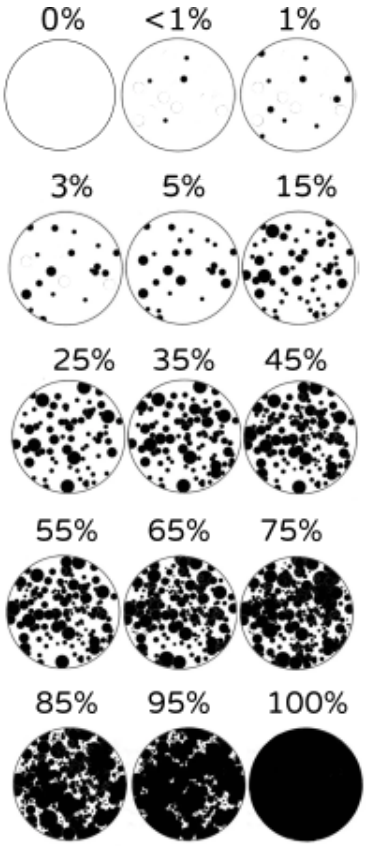
Plant	Score	Common name	Scientific name
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			

Over story score: _____

Plant	Score	Common name	Scientific name
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			

Coverage score

1	<<1%
2	<1%
3	<4%
4	4–10%
5	11–25%
6	26–33%
7	34–50%
8	51–75%
9	76–90%
10	91–100%



Go to epicaustralia.org.au/vegemap/ or scan the QR code below to send us your results!

Our website has instructions for laying out multiple plant survey plots per pollen trap site. If you are able, do up to 9 surveys around the trap for total coverage!

VegeMap is part of:

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage