

Know Your Grasses



As natural resource managers, we must understand what we manage, and plant identification is a key component of that understanding. The ability to identify plants allows us to assess many important rangeland variables that are critical to proper management: range condition, proper stocking rates, forage production, wildlife habitat quality, and rangeland trend (upward or downward). Resource

managers, especially those interested in grazing management, often evaluate the presence or absence of many grass species as the first step in assessing these variables.

Pictured below are numerous photographs of grasses common to our area. How many can you identify? (Answers are at the bottom of page 2.) *All photos by Stevens/Coffey.*



ANSWERS:

- 1. Barnyardgrass
- 2. Big bluestem
- 3. Blue grama
- 4. Broomsedge bluestem
- 5. Buffalograss
- 6. Carolina joint-tail
- 7. Dallisgrass
- 8. Hairy grama
- 9. Indiangrass
- 10. Johnsongrass
- 11. Knotroot bristleglass
- 12. Little bluestem
- 13. Plains bluestem
- 14. Plains lovegrass
- 15. Purple threewain
- 16. Purpletop
- 17. Sandbur
- 18. Scribner's panicum
- 19. Sideoats grama
- 20. Silver bluestem
- 21. Switchgrass
- 22. Tall dropseed
- 23. Texas grama
- 24. Tumble windmillgrass
- 25. Weeping lovegrass

