

<b>Course Name: Forage Identification and Inventory - Module</b>	
<b>Course Coordinator: State Grazing Specialist</b>	<b>Course Number: MI0059</b>

**Overview:** This course imparts how to identify common Michigan forage plant species including how to "key" down plant species based on specific plant parts and characteristics. This course also emphasizes the process involved to inventory a given area of plants by species as well as by total available dry matter in lbs. per acre. Various inventory tools and methods are demonstrated.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the course is to enable the course participant to identify common Michigan forage plant species, determine their production and make up of a given area, and to document this information so it is ready to be used as part of the conservation planning process

**Prerequisites:** None

**Duration:** 3 hours (1.5 hours classroom, 1.5 hours field exercise). **This module is usually combined with the Plant ID - Grasses and Forbs Module into a full one-day course.**

**Target Audience:** NRCS and conservation partnership employees providing conservation planning and technical assistance to producers growing forages.

**Expected Outcomes:** After completing this course the participant should be at the proficiency level 3 - can perform with supervision and with a few hours of OJT with their supervisor in this skill area should be at the proficiency level of 4 - can apply independently.

**Resources needed:** The module will provide handouts on plant identification and a pocket color plant identification book. A Michigan Pasture Stick will also be provided. A magnifying glass of some type would be helpful for the student to bring.

Outline for: **Forage Identification and Inventory - Module**

## **OUTLINE**

- I. How to Identify Plants by Specific Characteristics
  - A. Grasses
  - B. Legumes
- II. In classroom open note and book test on live potted plants at various growth stages
- III. Instruction on measuring production of forage plants in Dry Matter Pounds Per Acre
- IV. Field Exercise in Plant Identification and Production Measurement
  - A. Using ID Books
  - B. Clipping Squares
  - C. Michigan Pasture Stick