

Cover It Up Field Packet 2024

Overview

- Data collection will take place from May through September 2024
- This year you will be identifying flowers, measuring flower size, and uploading photos to iNaturalist
- You will not be doing any of the data collection activities you did in previous years

Safety

Prioritize the safety of yourself and others. Please take reasonable precautions regarding heat, air quality, ticks, poison ivy, and other risks. Your safety is more important than the data.

Timing

Please collect data within the first two weeks of every month from May through September (5 times). If this timing doesn't work for you, contact us and we will find a solution.

Time commitment

The time it takes to collect data each time will vary depending on how many flowers are in your plots. You will spend time collecting photos of these flowers, measuring their size, and uploading the photos to iNaturalist, which will get easier the more you do it.

Supplies

Supplies include this field packet, the measuring "foot," and data sheets. The foot will be mailed to you and a copy of this packet and extra data sheets can be found at and printed from coveritup.umn.edu/2024. If you did not receive the foot in the mail, email coveritup@umn.edu or call 612-301-1639.

Support

Contact Nick at coveritup@umn.edu or 612-301-1639 with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for collecting data. This science wouldn't be possible without you!

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Data collection instructions

Please repeat this activity within the first two weeks of every month:

1. Record the square number and the date on the top of the table in the data sheet.
2. For each plant with at least one bloomed flower (a flower that has visible petals) within the square:
 - a. Record the species name in the first column, or “unknown” followed by a letter (start with ‘A’ and move through the alphabet with each new unknown species).
 - b. **If you haven’t recorded this species yet in another square for this survey**, take a picture and record the time of the picture, along with a brief description of the flower, in column two. **If you have recorded this species already during this survey**, no need for a picture. Just record a brief description of the flower in column two. This ensures that we have one photo for every species (including unknown species) that you identify in this survey.
 - c. For all plants of that same species in the same square, estimate the total number of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, and 15 cm circles needed to cover the surface of all of its flowers, using the provided “foot” measuring guide. If there are more than 25, estimate and round to the nearest 25. Record these numbers in the respective columns on the data sheet.
 - i. Example 1: 3 plants might produce a combined 15 flowers, each being roughly 1 cm in diameter, requiring 15 x 1cm circles to cover its total flower area.
 - ii. Example 2: 3 plants might produce a combined 15 flowers, with 9 being roughly 1 cm in diameter and 6 being roughly 2cm in diameter.

Note: To qualify for a flower size on the “foot,” the flower area must cover at least 75% of the area for that size.
3. Repeat steps 2a – 2c for each of the six squares at your site.
4. Fill out the **Total Species List** by recording every species (including unknowns) you encountered across all six squares in this survey. Upload one picture of each species (including unknowns) to iNaturalist (see separate instructions included). It will be helpful to look at the times you recorded for each photo to remember which photo is of which species.
5. Take pictures of the data sheets and keep for your records.
6. Once the species identification has been confirmed on iNaturalist by the account “ciucoordinator” (this may take a few days), record the confirmed ID in the third column of the **Total Species List**. **Important:** Do not change the names of any of your recorded species, even if what you recorded is different from the confirmed identification. We will handle any ID mismatches. This is a great way for folks to learn new species and hone their ID skills.
7. Once all identifications have been confirmed in iNaturalist and the **Total Species List** is completely filled out, take new pictures of the data sheets (including tables for all six plots and the **Total Species List**) and submit them via email to coveritup@umn.edu.
8. Repeat within the first two weeks of every month, May through September (5 times).

iNaturalist instructions

These instructions are for using the app on your phone. If you are using a computer to upload images, please reach out to us for instructions if you need them at coveritup@umn.edu or 612-301-1639.

1. After opening the iNaturalist app, tap “observe” on the bottom of the screen.
2. Tap “photo library.”
3. Select the photo you wish to upload. You’ll have to find a method that works best for you when it comes to remembering which photo is of which plant (especially if it’s an unknown plant). The flower description and time of photo that you recorded on the data sheet might be helpful here.
4. After selecting the photo, tap “add” in the upper right. Note: you may upload multiple photos of the same plant, but **do not upload photos of multiple species in the same post.**
5. Tap “What did you see?” and enter your best guess at the species. iNaturalist will usually present some suggestions based on the photo that you can choose from if you wish.
6. If you’re unsure of the species and don’t want to choose one of the suggestions (or if no suggestions are presented), you can leave the identification field blank.
7. Add a location.
8. Tap “Captive/Cultivated” and then select “Yes.”
9. Tap “Projects” and select the Cover It UP Citizen Science project.
10. Tap “share” at the bottom of the screen.
11. In the next few days, staff and other citizen scientists will comment on your post, either confirming your identification or suggesting a different identification. Feel free to browse observations from other people in the project and help with their identifications too.

plot (square): 1	date: 6/3/24	no. of circles per species					
species (best guess)	flower description (color and shape) and photo time (if applicable)	1cm	2cm	3cm	5cm	10cm	15cm
Enchanter's nightshade	small white flowers 1:05 PM		3				
Unknown A	small white flowers 1:07 PM	50					
American lopsced	tall stalk w/ pink flowers 1:08 PM	4	1	1			
White Avens	white flower, 5 petals 1:13 PM	2					

plot (square): 2	date: 6/3/24	no. of circles per species					
species (best guess)	flower description (color and shape) and photo time (if applicable)	1cm	2cm	3cm	5cm	10cm	15cm
White Avens	white flower, 5 petals 1:13 PM	3					
Unknown A	small white flowers	20					
Unknown B	yellow flower, 5 petals 1:35 PM	2					

Same as
New unknown species

Since we already have photos for White Avens & Unknown A in Plot 1, we don't need more photos for them here.

only need a photo if you haven't seen this species in this survey yet

List of all species observed in this survey (one species per line, include unknowns)	At least one example uploaded to iNaturalist? (yes/no)	Confirmed ID from iNaturalist
Enchanter's nightshade	Yes	Enchanter's nightshade
Unknown A	Yes	Fragrant Bedstraw
American lopsced	Yes	Pointed-leaf tick-trefoil
White Avens	Yes	White Avens
Unknown B	Yes	Wood Sorrel

This is different from what we thought that's ok! Don't change anything. Now you know for next time!

Once you have confirmed IDs from iNaturalist, * take pictures of the data collection sheets for * the round and submit them via email.

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