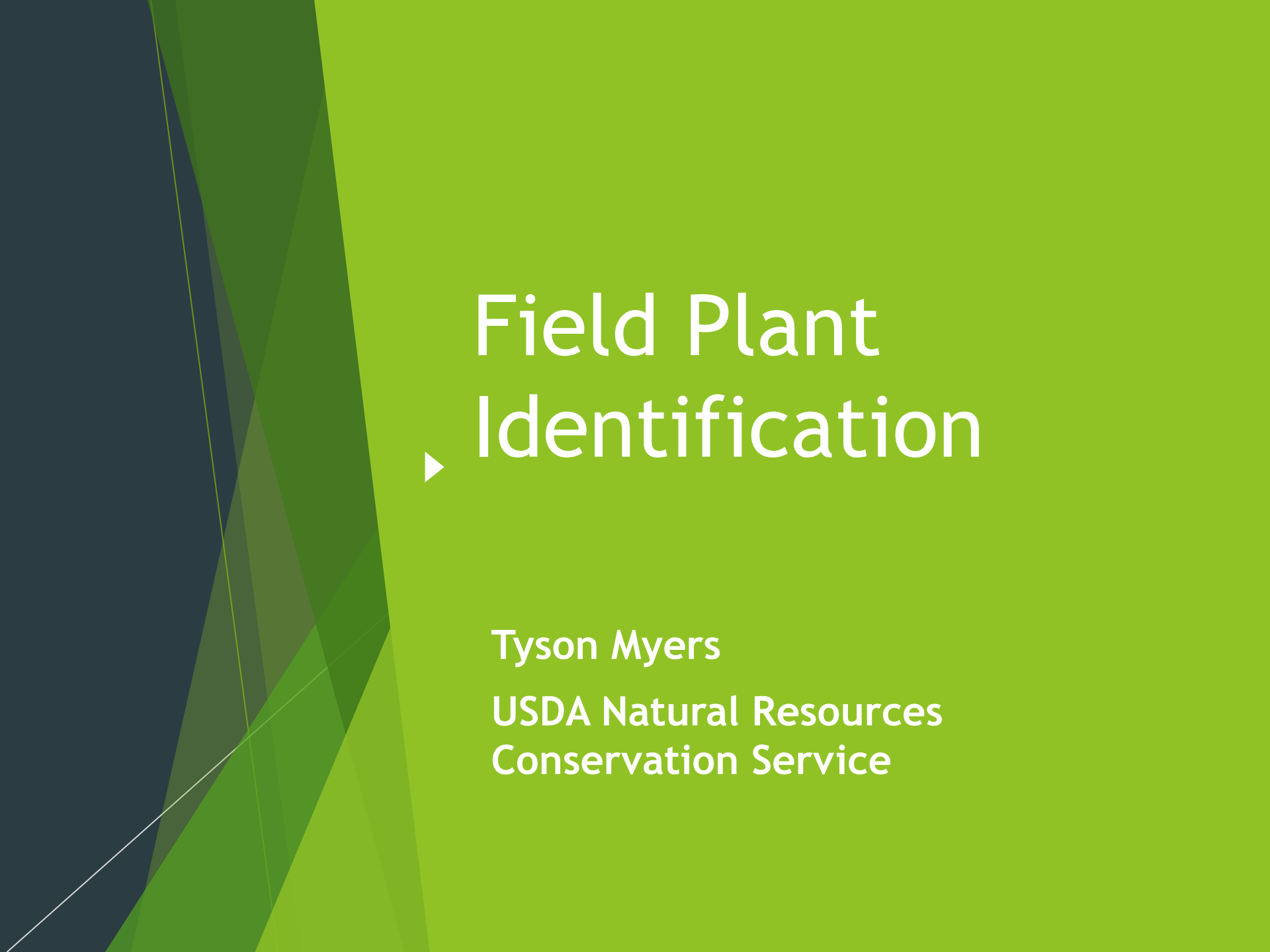




Field Plant Identification

Tyson Myers

USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service

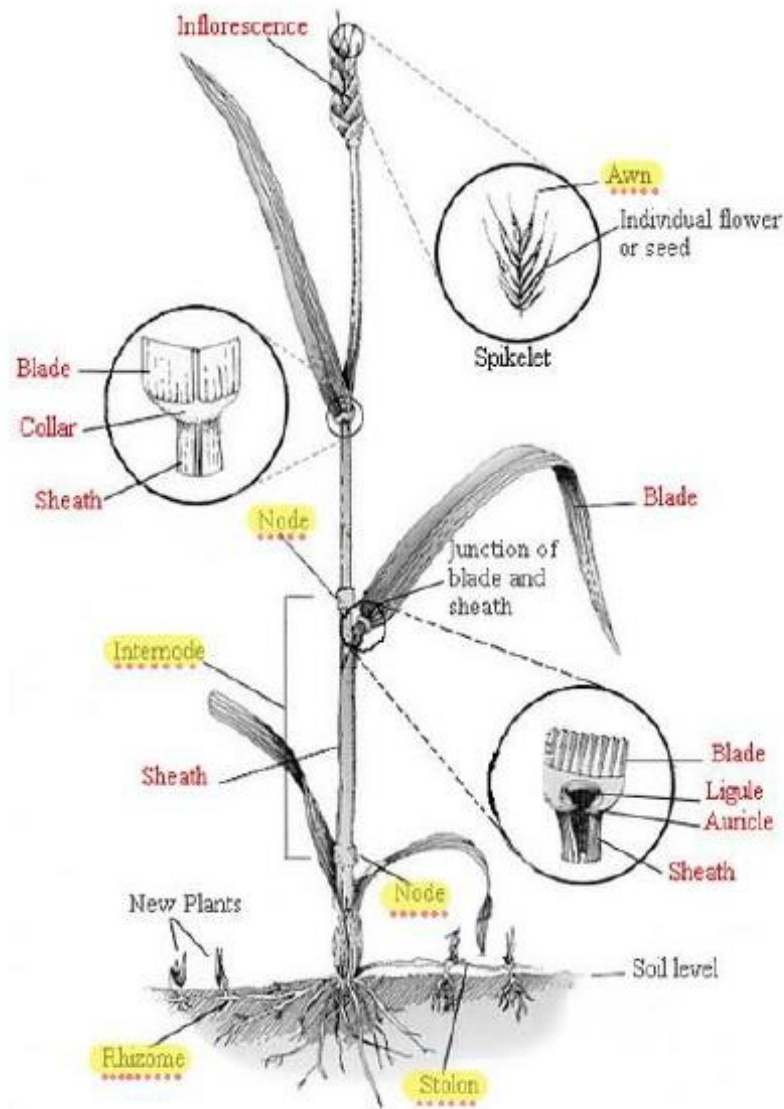
Plant Functional Groups:

Species grouped having similar management requirements, biological contributions and attributes.

What do you think are the common functional groups?

1. Cool Season Grasses
2. Warm Season Grasses
3. Legumes
4. Forbs or Broadleaf plants

We're going to give you a quick list of various plants from different functional groups and their attributes for ID.



Structures
used to
identify
grasses

Kentucky Bluegrass

CHARACTERISTICS-

- ▶ Boat-shaped tip
- ▶ Split sheath, no auricle
- ▶ Short growth habit (sod grass)
- ▶ Tolerant to wet soil conditions
- ▶ Tolerant to frequent harvesting



Perennial Ryegrass

CHARACTERISTICS-

- ▶ Overlapping sheath, round stem
- ▶ Waxy, shiny leaves
- ▶ Low persistence (winter damaged)
- ▶ Not tolerant of drought
- ▶ Very competitive
- ▶ Needs 2-3 inches of stubble for persistence



Orchardgrass

CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Bunchgrass, light green color
- ▶ Flat stem, white membrane, pointed at top
- ▶ Moderately tolerant of drought & wet conditions
- ▶ Competitive with legumes
- ▶ Needs 3-4 in. stubble for persistence



Tall Fescue

CHARACTERISTICS-

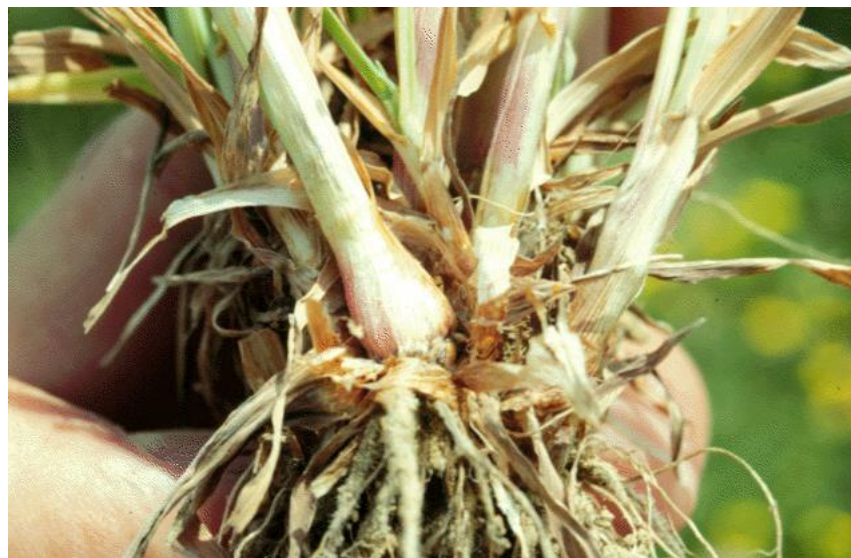
- ▶ Bunchgrass, dark green
- ▶ Tall growth habit, deep veins with rough edges
- ▶ High tolerance to frequent harvest
- ▶ Stockpiled forage potential high
- ▶ Tolerates low fertility
- ▶ Endophyte problems



Timothy

CHARACTERISTICS-

- ▶ Late maturing
- ▶ Tall growing bunchgrass
- ▶ Twisting leaves and corm distinctive
- ▶ Spike-like panicle, horned spikelet
- ▶ Needs taller stubble height for persistence



Smooth Bromegrass

CHARACTERISTICS-

- ▶ Distinctive crimp mid-leaf resembling an “M”
- ▶ Narrow, divided collar
- ▶ Large panicle, drooping
- ▶ Sod-forming rhizomes





Red Clover

CHARACTERISTICS-

- ▶ Tall, rapid growth habit in spring
- ▶ Low drought tolerance
- ▶ Easily established (can frost seed)
- ▶ Tap Root (Moderate rooting depth - can access moisture)
- ▶ Can cause bloat
- ▶ Hairy Stem!



White Clover (Ladino)

ATTRIBUTES

- ▶ Rapid growth habit
- ▶ Spreads by stolons
- ▶ Reseeds itself / favor conditions
- ▶ Persists under heavy pressure
- ▶ Can cause bloat
- ▶ Smooth Stem!





Alfalfa

ATTRIBUTES

- ▶ High drought tolerance
- ▶ Deep rooting depth (taproot)-
can access moisture
- ▶ Highly persistent with good
management
- ▶ Low tolerance to wet soil and
low pH (below 6)
- ▶ Can cause bloat







Corn

▶ CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Warm season grass
- ▶ Fast growth rate
- ▶ Pollinated by wind
- ▶ Tall, erect, unbranched
- ▶ Not winter hardy

Soybean



▶ CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Warm season legume
- ▶ Taproot
- ▶ Pollinated by insects
- ▶ Erect, much-branched
- ▶ Not winter hardy

Winter wheat



- ▶ CHARACTERISTICS
- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Cool season grass
- ▶ Requires vernalization
- ▶ Pollinated by wind
- ▶ Erect, forms tillers
- ▶ Winter hardy

Winter Barley



▶ CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Cool season grass
- ▶ Requires vernalization
- ▶ Pollinated by wind
- ▶ Erect, unbranched
- ▶ Forms tillers
- ▶ Winter hardy

Cereal Rye



▶ CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Cool season grass
- ▶ Requires vernalization
- ▶ Pollinated by wind
- ▶ Erect, unbranched
- ▶ Forms tillers
- ▶ Winter hardy

Spring Oats



▶ CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Cool season grass
- ▶ Pollinated by wind
- ▶ Erect, unbranched
- ▶ Forms tillers
- ▶ Not winter hardy

Triticale



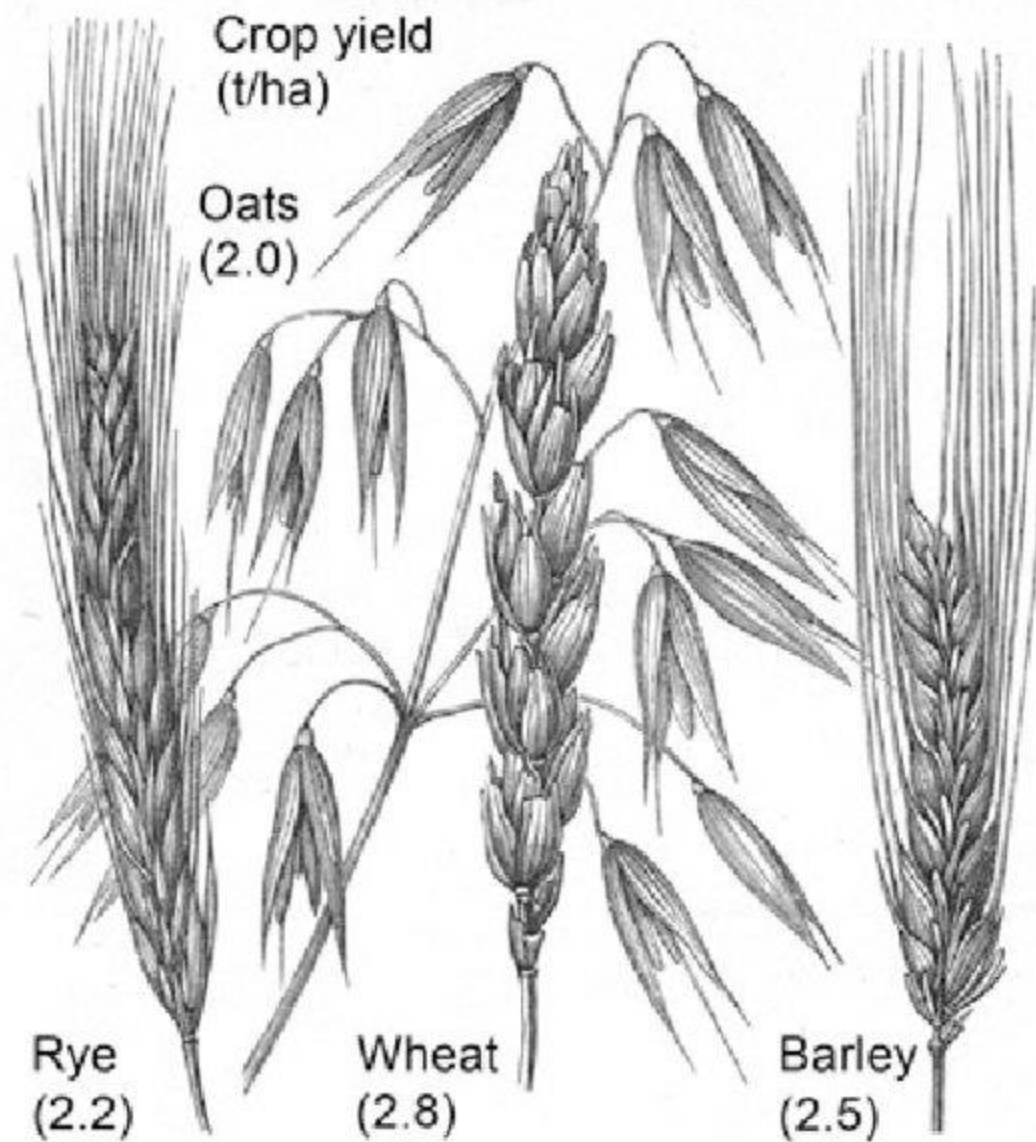
▶ CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Cool season grass
- ▶ Pollinated by wind
- ▶ Erect, unbranched
- ▶ Forms tillers
- ▶ Winter hardy

Tobacco



- ▶ CHARACTERISTICS
- ▶ Annual
- ▶ Warm season broadleaf
- ▶ Pollinated by insects
- ▶ Erect, branched
- ▶ Not winter hardy



Review Plant ID Resources Provided in Binder and Handouts

Questions?

