AVID MINNESOTA

Plot Set-Up Instructions

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Yard stick
- 1 6-ft. string
- 2 12-ft. string
- PVC pipe (1 ft. long and ¾ in wide)
- Flags
- Scot tags
- Chopsticks
- Wire
- Data sheets
- Compass
- Hammer
- Permanent marker & pen/Pencil
- Clipboard (recommended)

OVERVIEW

You will be setting up six plots. Try to identify and tag between 20-50 individual seedlings of one or two species between the six plots.

INSTRUCTIONS

Setting Up Plots

1. Walk around the forest stand where the plots will be located for 30 minutes and identify preferred and palatable species in the stand. Choose and identify one or two species you will record.

2. Fill out the site data sheet.

3. Find the location of your first plot and decide where to put the center. Pick a location that has at least five individuals of the preferred or palatable species. Repeat the following for all six plots.

4. Hammer in the PVC pipe into the location you choose as the center.

5. Tie the 6-ft. string around the center pipe. You will use the 6-ft. string to measure where to place the flags. Use the compass and walk one of the four cardinal directions. Walk to the end of the string and place the flag. Repeat for the other three cardinal directions.
6. Once the four flags are placed, use the 2-12 ft. strings to create the quadrats in the plot. Connect the diagonal flags with the two strings so it creates an “X” within the plot. The quadrats are based on the cardinal direction, so the four quadrants are NE, NW, SE, and SW.

7. Find the individuals of the preferred or palatable species you choose within the plot.

8. Write on the scot tags the plot number and seedling number and place the chopstick 4 in. into the ground next to the seedling.

**Recording Data**

9. Use the plot data sheets to record information about the plot and individual seedlings in each plot.

10. For each individual that was tagged record the species, quadrant (NE, NW, SE, or SW), tag number and marker color.

11. Next measure the natural height of each individual. To measure the natural height, measure from the ground (where the stem enters the ground), up to the highest point on the twig when the plant is untouched and standing naturally. Do NOT measure to the highest point at the end of leaves.

12. Record the height.