



Exploring 4-H at Home

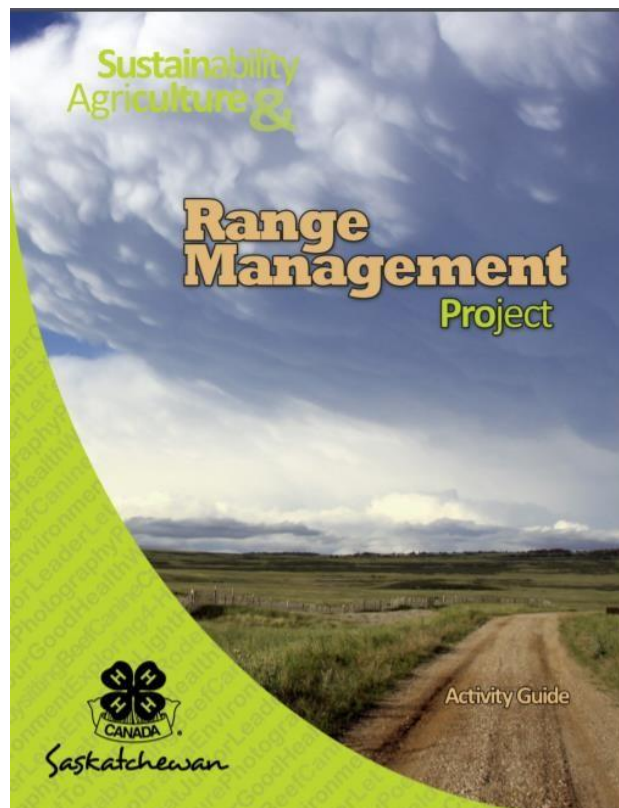


Sustainable Agriculture
and Food Security

Pillar: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security/Science

Project: Range Management

Activity: Plant Identification Quest
(Adapted From 141-147)



Nature Hiking

A diversity of plants can be found all across Saskatchewan. Taking a hike in your community can be an opportunity to learn about new plants and discover more about the plants you are already familiar with. In this activity you will complete a plant identification quest by finding each plant part in your community. Review these safety points every time before you head out:

1. Pack for the trip. Are you headed out just for the hour or the whole day? There are a number of basic things you should pack for a trek plus additional supplies based on the time of year and expected duration of your trek. Water at all times of the year. Sunscreen and mosquito spray. In the summer layers of cool light clothing, durable footwear and a hat. Map of the area. Camera (optional) Cell phone (optional)
2. Ask permission before you enter anyone's land. It is respectful and they can let you know of any dangers such as unstable soil or aggressive livestock. Leave no trace except your footprints.
3. Always tell an adult where you are going, what direction you are headed and when you will be back. Stick to your plan!
4. Be conscious of the 'season'. Wear bright colours and stay in visible locations in the fall hunting season. Stay clear of cows during calving time. If you come across wildlife or livestock in their mating season avoid confrontations.
5. Be safe around wildlife and livestock. Mothers with young will be protective. Do not approach wildlife. Badgers, raccoons, skunks, foxes and coyotes can all carry diseases. A porcupine can swing its quill covered tail quickly at you. A skunk may turn and spray you if frightened.
6. Watch where you sit. Low growing cactuses can be found on many rangelands. Cactus spines hurt! Do not eat wild plants unless you recognize them.
7. Look down when you are walking. Holes from wildlife burrows and dens are everywhere in grasslands. Wear sturdy footwear with closed toes. Watch where you walk.
8. Realize that the distance you walk out onto the prairie is the distance you also have to walk back!
9. Cell phones may not work in rural locations.
10. Prairie weather is UNPREDICATABLE. In particular, thunderstorms with dangerous lightning can appear very quickly. Lightning strikes do occur with and WITHOUT rain. Stay away from tall trees, fences, pipe, and water. A low area on the prairie or

an area with thick shorter trees in a treed rangeland is the safest places to be if stranded in a lightning storm. If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, a lightning strike may be about to happen. Crouch down on the balls of your feet with your feet close together. Lower your head covering your ears. You can put your elbows on your knees. Get as low as possible staying only on your feet.

Quest Details

Can you check every box? Did you find anything unique or surprising? Write it down!

Flower



*Rob Routledge, Sault College,
Bugwood.org*

Seed head



*Chris Schnepf, University of
Idaho, Bugwood.org*

Forb stem



*Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte,
Bugwood.org*

Shrub stem



*Rob Routledge, Sault College,
Bugwood.org*

Alternate leaf arrangement



*Rebekah D. Wallace, University of
Georgia, Bugwood.org*

MY NOTES

Plants use seeds to spread to new places.
How many different ways can you find?

Forbs are plants with leaves but not woody
stems.

Shrubs are plants with leaves and woody
stems.

These leaves do not line up with each other
on the same branch.

Composite leaf

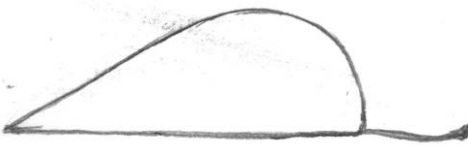


Michigan Department of
Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Toothed margin on leaf



Smooth margined leaf



Oval shaped leaf



Lance shaped leaf



These leaves line up with each other on the same branch.

Don't forget to post a picture of your findings on the 4-H
Saskatchewan Exploring 4-H At Home Page and use
#exploring4hathome