

Grasses walk across campus

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1jqK2yEPMCIKC4DTeRIX2LsyaS4NrWED9&usp=sharing>

Meeting location: tables on the east side of [WBB](#) and [FASB](#) Buildings

Length and duration: 40 minutes, 0.6 miles

Preparation – items to bring for this walk:

- Facemask
- Hat and sunscreen
- [Printout of species list](#), with names, photosynthetic type, life form, and geographic origin
- 10-20x hand lens (if you have one)
- Smart phone or iPad/tablet to follow along and see description (see URL above)

During this walk, students will be

- introduced to a dozen grass species
 - *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama), C₄ sod grass
 - *Calamagrostis acutifolia* ‘Karl Foerster’ (calamagrostis), C₃ bunchgrass
 - *Cortaderia selloana* (dwarf pampas grass), C₄ bunchgrass
 - *Cynodon dactylon* (Bermuda grass), C₄ sod grass
 - *Helictotrichon sempervirens* (blue oat grass), C₃ bunchgrass
 - *Miscanthus sinensis* (miscanthus), C₄ bunchgrass
 - *Oryzopsis hymenoides* (indian ricegrass), C₃ bunchgrass
 - *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass), C₄ bunchgrass
 - *Pennisetum setaceum* (fountain grass), C₄ bunchgrass
 - *Poa pratensis* (Kentucky bluegrass), C₃ bunchgrass
 - *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem), C₄ bunchgrass
 - *Sporobolus heterolepis* (prairie dropseed), C₄ bunchgrass
- learn how to distinguish between C₃ and C₄ grasses with a hand lens
- learn how to distinguish between sod grasses and bunch grasses (tussock grasses)
- understand the dynamics of C₃ versus C₄ species in our campus lawns as influenced by the amount of summertime watering and the extent of fertilization
- learn a number of invasive grasses commonly seen on campus
 - *Bromus tectorum* (cheatgrass), C₃ spring active
 - *Phragmites australis*
 - *Setaria pumila* (foxtail), C₄ summer active

For those students preferring to walk on their own or for those students unable to come to campus, a video is available to help guide you.