Aridlands Ecology Lab Protocol Modified: 2009.09.17, S. Castle

Plant Density/Frequency

Materials:

0.5m square quadrat (can be made from PVC pipe and 45degree connectors) Metric measuring tape the length of the transect or slightly longer Steel candy cane shaped pins for anchoring tape Plant Density/Frequency data sheet

Taking Measurements:

- 1. For plant frequency measurements, begin at the "0" end of the line and working on the downslope edge of the tape. Always stay on the same side of the line.
- 2. Start the first measurement at the 1 meter mark. Position the quadrat frame along the transect, such that the frame extends flush with the transect line from the 1m to the 1.5m mark.
- 3. Record all herbaceous plant species that are found in the quadrat, noting how many times the plants appear. Use the USDA plant codes or project specific plant codes to indicate plant species.
 - a. If quadrat lands on a shrub or tree, do not record, unless it is under 5cm in height.
- 4. If the plant species is unknown, record as an Unknown#.