The 5 Types of Plants Worksheet 1
Plants on the Range

Read the following descriptions of the 5 different types and examples of plants.

Trees have a solid woody trunk and branches with broad or needle-like leaves. Trees are usually bigger than shrubs.

Oaks are trees that provide shelter and shade for animals. Seeds called acorns are eaten by livestock and are important food for wildlife. Livestock and wildlife eat new growth of leaves, branches and shoots from roots.

Junipers are trees that stay green all year long and have gray-green, needle-like leaves. Wildlife will eat this tree in the winter but cattle and horses do not like to eat it.

Shrubs are usually smaller than trees and have solid, woody multiple branching trunks from the ground.

Manzanita is a shrub with pea sized, red colored berry-like fruits and reddish-brown smooth bark on its branches. The name manzanita means "little apple" in spanish- describing its fruits. The new shoots, leaves and fruits feed wildlife but not livestock.

Deerbrush is a shrub that is full of protein and is excellent forage (food) for livestock. This shrub can handle the browsing of grazers like cattle and sheep.

Forbs are fleshy plants with juicy or pithy not woody stems. Plants like wildflowers, sunflowers, dandelions, thistles and mustards are all considered forbs.

Summer Clover is a forb plant with "juicy" 3-parted leaves that tastes delicious to livestock.

Grasses have hollow, rounded stems with joints and blades arranged on opposite sides of the stems. There are many different types of grasses. Grasses cover 20% of land surface on earth.

Grass-like plants look similar to grasses, but the stems are not jointed. The stems may be rounded, triangular or flattened and support two or three blades. Many of these plants live in wet conditions along streams, ponds, and lakes.

Sedges and ***Rushes*** are common types of grass- like plants.