

Sampling instructions - quadrat sampling

About quadrat sampling

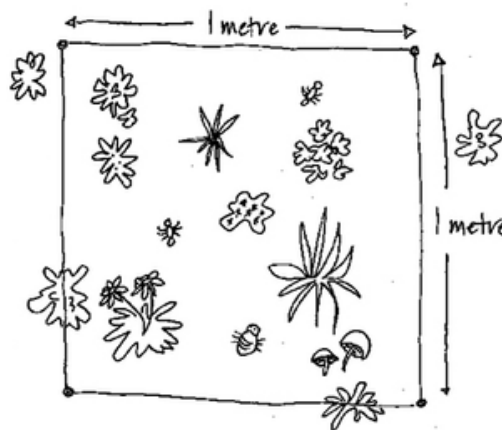
Quadrat sampling is one of the most useful ways of obtaining quantitative information about the organisms you want to survey.

A quadrat is conducted by marking out a square on the site you wish to sample. The square should be set at a particular size depending on what you want to sample. If you're just sampling very small organisms, then you might have a quadrat of 0.1 square metres. If you wanted to sample a large tree, then your quadrat might be 100 square metres.

Every organism found within your quadrat needs to be recorded.

It is assumed that the site you select to conduct your quadrat sample gives a reliable picture of the study area. The quadrat must be of a size suitable to include a reasonable number of organisms while making it possible to count, identify and measure (where appropriate) all the organisms in the set time. In other words, while it is tempting to pick the one area in the bush that has been cleared and that has bare ground and not too many plants because this will mean less work in counting and measuring, this site is not representative of the rest of the bush and won't give you a good picture of your sample site.

Only count the organisms inside or touched by the quadrat lines.



Setting Up Your Quadrat

You will be using a quadrat sample to obtain quantitative information about small organisms, such as minibeasts, grasses, lichens and mosses, and other small plants.

Material required: 4.5-metre length of string, tape measure, four pegs, paper sign with your group number.

Step 1. Mark out your quadrat. Your quadrat should be 1m². Your teacher will direct you to a site in the schoolyard to conduct your quadrat sample. Use the pegs to mark the corners of your quadrat and join these together with the string to make a square.

Step 2. Count the number of organisms present in your quadrat. Record your findings on the Quadrat Record Sheet.