

**Instructions:** Vegetation is a critical resource in Idaho because it provides ground cover that protects from wind and water erosion, it cleans our water in healthy watersheds, and it provides food and shelter for animal species. There are about 3,000 species of plants that make up the vegetation in Idaho. Countless species of microscopic plants also live in Idaho's soils and waterways. The Digital Atlas contains lots of information on the soils and climate on which Idaho's plant species depend. It also contains vegetation maps of the state and a photo archive of many of Idaho's plant species.

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1. Why does fire play such an important role for the growth of many types of vegetation?
2. What is secondary succession?
3. Describe the relationship that sometimes takes place between certain fungi and tree roots.
4. What is a noxious weed? What is an introduced species? Why are introduced species often also noxious weeds? Should we devote resources to getting rid of noxious weeds and introduced species? Why or why not?
5. What are some significant factors that determine vegetation distribution?
6. Why is a wetland considered a natural filter system as well as a sponge?
7. What indicators are used to classify an area as a wetland?
8. Distinguish between a forb, grass, and shrub.