Arizona Quail Chow (and how to find it)



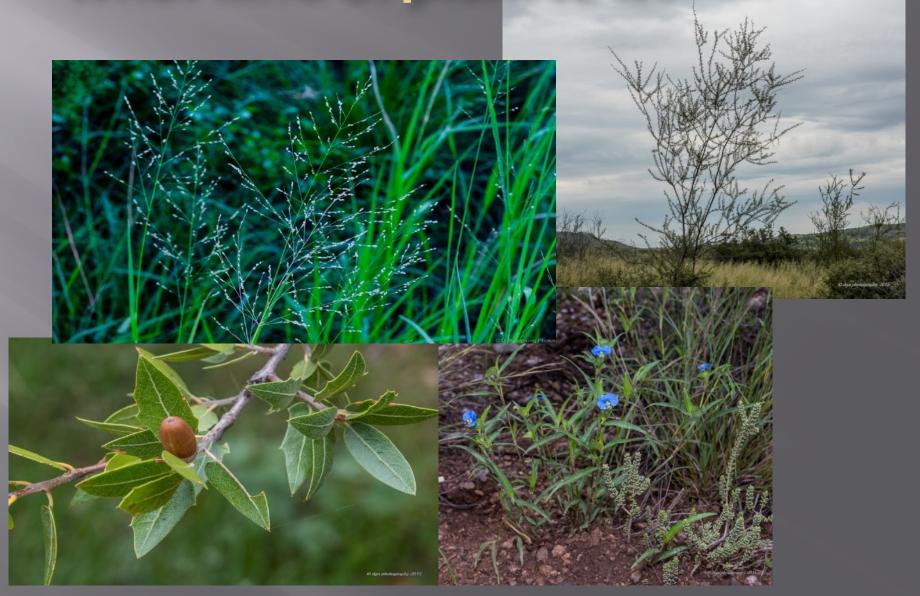
Rana Tucker, AZ Game & Fish Dept 2018

Plant ID 101

- What kind of plant is it?
- What is its habitat (eg should it be growing here)?
- How is this plant important to quail?

What kind of plant is it?

- Grasses
- Forbs
- Shrubs
- Trees







Shrubs

- True shrubs vs half-shrubs
- How much should there be?





















Forbs

- Forb vs half-shrub
- What is a "weed"?











Grasses

- Perennial vs annual
- Cool-season vs warm-season
- What is a bunch grass?
- Native vs non-native vs invasive vs noxious

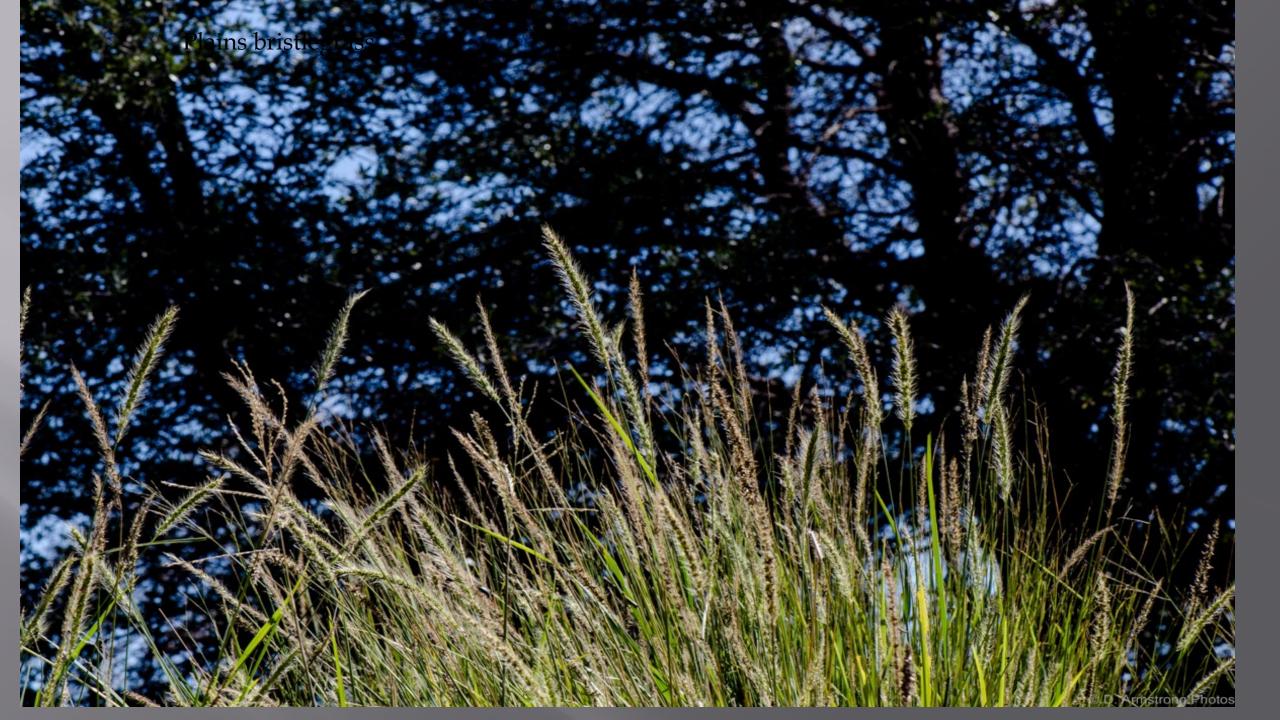
Grasses – growth forms

- When does it grow?
 - Early spring vs summer rains?
- How does it grow?
 - Low to the ground?
 - Big and tall?
 - Compact or spread-out?
 - Roots....
- How does it spread?
 - Seeds or shoots?
- Where did it come from?
 - Native vs non-native



Leland J. Prater, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database







Plant ID 101

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Ecological Site Descriptions

- Derived from soil maps
- Rainfall
- Slope (determines what the water does)
- Determines what kind of plants you may see there, in what quantities
- Web Soil Survey, NRCS ESD

Plant ID 101

- ✓ What kind of plant is it?
- ✓ What is its habitat (eg should it be growing here)?

How is this plant important to quail?

What do these plants provide for quail?

- Food
 - Seeds
 - Bulbs
 - Greens
 - Insects
- Water
 - Tender greens provide water
- Cover
 - Shade
 - Predator Avoidance
 - Nesting Material



Grassland Plant ID for Everyone

Except Folks That Take Boring Technical Stuff Too Seriously



By Jim Koweek
Photos by Dale Armstrong