

SEOSAW Small Stems Protocol

If you use this protocol, please cite the manual as:

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Version Control

- V1.0 11 May 2022 Separated from field manual and revisions made to match comments from PM and JG.

1 Small stems

In general, it is recommended to set the diameter threshold to include all stem size classes of interest. If however, information on smaller size classes is required, a simple count of stems is normally sufficient.

Small stems with a diameter at the POM of more than zero and less than the threshold and 1.3m in height should be counted in belt transects – no diameter measurements or tags are needed.

Small stems should be measured in three 2 m x 100 m belt transects per 1 ha plot, located at the 20 m, 50 m and 80 m transect lines (Figure 1). Small stems should be sampled along the same transects as the shrub protocol. For plots smaller than one hectare, we recommend sampling two 50m belt transects for every 0.25 hectare.

Counts are recorded for each transect and should ideally be recorded for each species. We recommend keeping separate records for alive and dead trees. Small stems are counted as trees, not stems, so that a multi-stemmed tree is counted once.

Studies with a particular focus on regeneration and the diversity of the understory will want to measure more attributes of the small stems, and they may sample more intensively to gain more precision; tagging (normally by attaching a tag around the stem with wire for saplings as nails will do too much damage to small stems) may also be needed. The method here is suggested as a minimum.

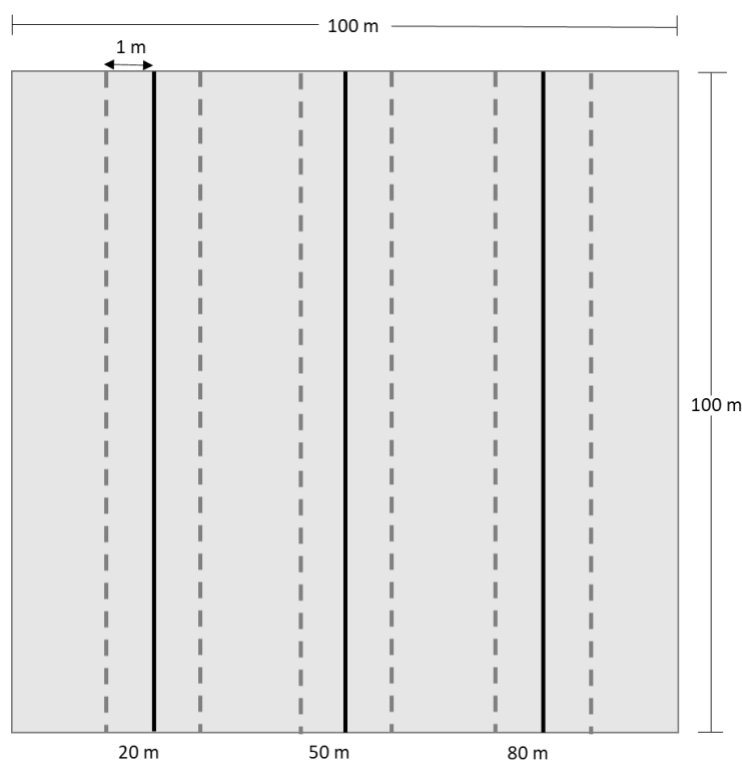


Figure 1: Belt transects of 2m x 100 m located at 20 m, 50 m, and 80 m on the plot x-axis