



ABOUT THIS COURSE

GRASS IDENTIFICATION

The objective of this online course is to train the learner on the grass family, the importance of grasses and especially how to identify grass. The identification part is based on the identification key in the book “Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa” by Frits van Oudtshoorn. The course is aimed at people working with grass (e.g. farmers and environmentalists) as well as people simply interested in nature. The course consists of the following six lessons:

Lesson 1. Introduction to the grass family

In this lesson, we look at some aspects of the grass family. This includes details on the size of the grass family, its classification and how to distinguish grasses from similar-looking plant families.

Lesson 2. Importance of grasses to the ecology

In this lesson, we look at the important role of grasses in ecosystems. This includes grasses and grazers, grasses and birds, grasses and insects and grasses and soil conservation.

Lesson 3. Importance of grasses to humans

In this lesson, we look at the important aspects of grasses to humans. This includes grass as a source of food, grass as alcoholic beverages, food indirectly from grass, construction and utility items, turf grasses and ornamental grasses.

Lesson 4. The different parts of the grass plant

In this lesson, we will look at the different parts of the grass plant, also known as the morphology of the grass plant.

Lesson 5: How to identify grasses

In this lesson, we look at how to identify grasses by following a step-by-step process and using, among others, the identification key in the book “Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa”.

Lesson 6: Common grasses and their features

In this lesson, we look at a selection of some of the most common grasses in our region. We focus on their important features for identification.

