

Lovely Leaf Litter



Leaf litter isn't rubbish –
it's amazing stuff!

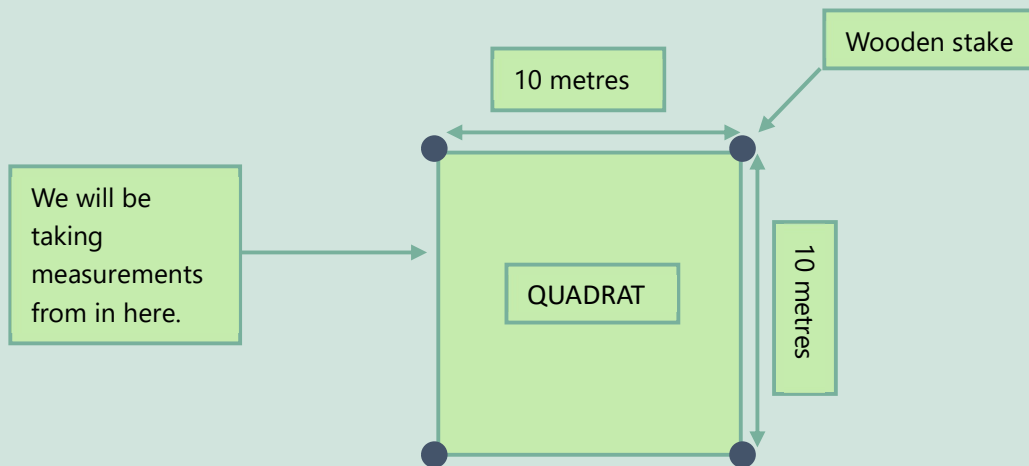
Leaf litter is the organic matter that falls from plants onto the ground. It's not just leaves though – it can also be twigs, bark, gumnuts and seeds. We are going to estimate the amount of leaf litter in our quadrat.

What you will need:

- Measuring tape (50m)
- Some wooden stakes


What to do:

1. Mark out a 10m x 10m quadrat at your site. A quadrat is a space within which we take a measurement. You can mark out the four corners of your quadrat using wooden stakes, and use the measuring tape to measure the distance between each stake. Set up 1-3 quadrats at your site.



2. Guess the cover of leaf litter in your quadrat. If your quadrat is only leaf litter, then that will be 100% cover. If about half of the quadrat is leaf litter, then we record 50% cover, and so on. Tick the box on the next page when you have an estimate. Remember, it's just a guess!

Leaf litter is really important as it provide habitat for a range of smaller critters like frogs, reptiles and insects. Get down close and have a look and see if you can spot anything living in your leaf litter!

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|--------------|---------|--|
| Less than 5% | 5-25% | 26-50% |
| 51-75% | 76-100% |  |