

# GLOSSARY

**Auricle:** the ear-like outgrowths at the junction of the leaf blade and the leaf sheath in many grasses, and similar growths near the base of the petiole in some plants.

**Berm:** the side of the earthen bank of a pond

**Biomass:** the total of the living things (plants, animals, insects, etc.) within a given area.

**Carbon-sequestering:** the removal and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through a biological or physical process

**Collar:** the area of the joint at the base of each leaf blade

**Diffusion:** the process of scattering or widely spreading something

**Dissolution:** the process of breaking down or separating of something into smaller or more basic pieces

**Dung:** the solid excrement of animals

**Ecozones:** large areas of the earth's surface where plants and animals developed in relative isolation over long periods of time. Ecozones are separated from one another by geologic features, such as oceans, broad deserts, or high mountain ranges that formed barriers to prevent plant and animal migration.

**Eutrophication:** an increase in chemical nutrients, typically compounds containing nitrogen or phosphorus, in an ecosystem, leading to the depletion of oxygen. This may occur on land or in water. The high levels of nitrogen or phosphorous encourage the growth and decomposition of oxygen-depleting plant life and further effects including severe reductions in water quality, fish, and other animal populations.

**Forb:** any herbaceous non-grass like plant that animals feed on

**Herbage:** the leaves, stems, and other succulent parts of forage plants that animals eat

**Humus:** the dark organic material in soils formed by the decay of plant and animal material. When the dead plant and/or animal material decays, it causes complex organic compounds to break down into simpler forms which are then made available to growing plants for uptake through their root systems.

**Legume:** a plant belonging to the family *Leguminosae*. Legumes have pods as fruit and roots that have nodules containing nitrogen fixing bacteria such as peas and beans.

**Ligule:** the membranous appendage or ring of hairs projecting from the inner side of a leaf at the junction between the blade and the sheath found in many grasses (Poaceae) and some sedges (Cyperaceae)

**Mineralization:** the conversion of organic matter into a mineral

**Overseeding:** seeds distributed on top of an existing pasture or sward to introduce a new species of plant in the sward

**Petiole:** the stalk of a leaf that attaches the blade to the stem

**Petiolule:** the stalk of a leaflet in a compound leaf (a leaf that is divided into two or more parts).

**Riparian buffer:** is the vegetated area near a stream, usually forested, which helps shade and partially protect a stream from the impact of adjacent land uses. It plays a key role in increasing water quality in associated streams, river, and lakes, thus providing environmental benefits. Riparian buffers have become a very common conservation practice aimed at increasing water quality and lessening pollution in water sources.

**Sward:** a group or population of herbaceous plants including the above ground and below ground parts of the plants.

**Sheath:** the base of the leaf when it forms a vertical covering around the stem of the plant

**Stipule:** a leaf like appendage found at the base of the petiole in many plants

**Tiller:** a stem produced at the base of grass plants. Tillers are made up of segments with segment having its own two part leaf. Tillers are involved in vegetative propagation. Many grass species use tillering to produce multiple stems or tillers starting from the initial seedling. Tillering forms dense clumps of plants with multiple seed heads.