

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822514203321
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Titolo	Grasses and grassland ecology / / David J. Gibson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 2009
ISBN	1-383-02478-2 9786611925291 1-281-92529-2 0-19-154609-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (323 p.)
Collana	Oxford biology Oxford scholarship online
Disciplina	581.7/4
Soggetti	Grassland ecology Grasslands Grasses
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index. Previously issued in print: 2008.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 243-287) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Systematics and evolution -- Ecological morphology and anatomy -- Physiology -- Population ecology -- Community ecology -- Ecosystem ecology -- World grasslands -- Disturbance -- Management and restoration.
Sommario/riassunto	This text is an up-to-date and thorough account of the natural history of the plants that comprise the most important food crop on Earth, the grasses and grasslands.