

Southern Michigan Succession

Pioneer Community

The Pioneer Community is found on bare subsoil (soil without nutrients) and bare topsoil (such as in abandoned farmland). A Pioneer Community may also be found on tree bark or rock.

On abandoned farmland, this community lasts about 0 – 3 years.

The plants in this community are of four basic types: annuals, biennials, mosses (in moist or wet areas), and lichens (in dry areas). An annual is a plant that grows from seed, leafs out, flowers, and produces seed in one year. A biennial is a plant that grows from seed and leafs out the first year. After winter, the plant flowers and produces seed in the second year.

Pioneer Community could become the Climax community with a lack of water and/or dry winds as in a desert or on a sand dune.

The plants and animals that are examples of this community in Southern Tuscola County include:

Plants	Animals
Lichens	Killdeer, <i>Charadrius vociferous</i>
Mosses	Prairie deer mouse, <i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
Bermuda grass, <i>Cynodactylon dactylon</i>	Savannah sparrow, <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Biennial winter cress, <i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Vesper sparrow, <i>Pooecetes maniculatus</i>
Bindweed, <i>Polygonum oilinode</i>	Wolf spider, <i>Lycosa gulosa</i>
Black medic, <i>Medicago lupulina</i>	
Broad leaf plantain, <i>Plantago major</i>	
Chickweed, <i>Stellaria media</i>	
Chicory, <i>Cichorium intybus</i>	
Cinquefoil, <i>Potentilla recta</i>	
Common milkweed, <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	
Crabgrass, <i>Agropyron repens</i>	
Creeping Charlie, <i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	
Dandelion, <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	
Dry sandbur, <i>Cenchrus pauciflorus</i>	
Fall panicum, <i>Panicum dichotomiflorum</i>	
Foxtail grass, <i>Setaria lutescens</i>	
Ground ivy, <i>Glechoma hederaceae</i>	
Horsetail, <i>Equisetum arvense</i>	
Knotweed, <i>Polygonum avicularia</i>	
Narrow leaf plantain, <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	
Peppergrass, <i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	
Prostrate spurge, <i>Euphorbia supina</i>	
Ragweed, <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	

Red sorrel, <i>Rumex acetosella</i>	
Russian thistle, <i>Salsola kali</i>	
Shepherd's purse, <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	
Spotted knapweed, <i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	
Winter cress, <i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	
Witchgrass, <i>Panicum capillare</i>	
Wood sorrel, <i>Oxalis europaea</i>	
Yellow rocket, <i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	
Wild mustard, <i>Bassica kaber</i>	