

RANGELAND SCIENTIST

Every year plants change depending on the amount of water their roots absorb from the surrounding soil. Each plant uses different strategies to capture water and nutrients from the soil. Sagebrush has a deep **taproot** that allows it to get water and nutrients that grasses and forbs can't reach. Perennial grasses have **fibrous roots** that absorb water and nutrients over a large surface area closer to the surface of the soil. Annual grasses have **shallow roots**. Forbs have either a taproot or fibrous roots.

Match each plant to its root below. Identify which type of root each plant has (a taproot or a fibrous root).

shrub

perennial
grass

forb

annual
grass



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