

Alternative Forage

Nutritious ~~Weeds~~

Most of the plants on this list are at least as nutritious as traditional forages and most are much higher in protein than grasses. Cattle have either been trained to eat them, or have chosen to eat them in pasture after being trained on another weed.

We know that animals gain weight faster when they eat higher protein foods, and high protein weeds are often available when grasses aren't. So doesn't weed eating make sense to your cows and your bottom line?

Absinth wormwood	Dog Fennel	Netseed	Rush Skeletonweed
Blackberry	Diffuse knapweed	Lambsquarters	Salsify
Brazilian Pepper	Distaff thistle	Oakbrush	Salt Cedar/Tamarisk
Broom-like ragwort	Fetid Marigold	Orange hawkweed	Scentless Chamomile
Buckbrush/snowberry	Field Bindweed	Oxeye daisy	Scotch thistle
Bull thistle	Field Scabious	Pepperweed	Snowberry/Buckbrush
Burdock	Fringed sage	Pigweed	Sow thistle
Cactus	Hoary cress/White top	Plains milkweed	Spiny Amaranth
Canada goldenrod	Horehound	Plantain	Spotted knapweed
Carpetweed	Horse nettle	Poison oak	Suplphur cinquefoil
Canada thistle	Italian thistle	Poison Ivy	Sunflower
Chickory	Japanese Knotweed	Prostrate pigweed	Tamarisk/Salt Cedar
Cheatgrass	Leafy spurge	Purple groundcherry	Velvet weed
Common crupina	Louisiana sage	Purple starthistle	White top/Hoary cress
Common Mullein	Milk thistle	Rabbit brush	Wild licorice
Coyote Bush	Moth mullein	Ragweed	Wormwood sagewort
Curly Cup Gumweed	Musk thistle	Redstem pigweed	Yarrow
Cutleaf nightshade	Multi-flora rose	Russian knapweed	Yellow starthistle
Dalmatian toadflax	Mustards	Russian OliveRussian thistle	Yellow toadflax
			Yucca

Some weeds are easier to work with than others. Before you pick your weed, send me an email at kathy@onpasture.com and I'll help you make a good choice.

Don't see your weed here?

I've left some weeds off this list. Some are not safe for livestock to eat. Others would be fine to train them to eat, but I'd like to tell you more about them before you think of training your livestock to eat them. Please email me at kathy@onpasture.com and we can talk about your weeds.