

Grazing Weeds Means More Forage and Fatter Cows

Most of the plants on these lists are at least as nutritious as traditional forages and most are much higher in protein than grasses. So trained animals will continue to eat weeds, and add the most nutritious ones as they graze.

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?

Plants Cows Have Been Trained To Eat

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Canada thistle | Mustards |
| Dalmatian toadflax | Perennial pepperweed |
| Diffuse knapweed | Rabbit brush |
| Distaff thistle | Russian knapweed |
| Field Scabious | Scotch thistle |
| Horse nettle | Sow thistle |
| Italian thistle | Spotted knapweed |
| Leafy spurge | Tea weed |
| Milk thistle | White top/Hoary cress |
| Multiflora rose | Yellow toadflax |
| Musk thistle | |

Plants Educated Cows Choose To Eat

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Blackberry | Oakbrush |
| Broom-like ragwort | Pigweed |
| Broom snakeweed | Plains milkweed |
| Bull thistle | Poison Oak |
| Buttercup | Poison Ivy |
| Cactus | Prostrate Pigweed |
| Canada golden rod | Purple Groundcherry |
| Carpetweed | Purple starthistle |
| Common Mullein | Rabbit brush |
| Coyote Bush | Ragweed |
| Curly Cup Gumweed | Redstem pigweed |
| Cutleaf nightshade | Russian thistle |
| Fetid marigold | Salsify |
| Field bindweed | Snowberry/Buckbrush |
| Fringed sage | Sow thistle |
| Hoary Cress/White top | Sunflower |
| Horehound | Velvet weed |
| Louisiana Sage | Wild licorice |
| Moth mullein | Wormwood sagewort |
| Mullein | Yarrow |
| Multiflora rose | Yellow starthistle |
| Netseed Lambsquarters | Yucca |

Plants Cows Could Eat

Brazilian peppertree
Gorse
Orange hawkweed
Oxeye daisy
Scentless Chamomile

Don't See Your Weed Here?

Have questions about what's happening as you train?

Send me an email and I'll send you an answer:

kathy@onpasture.com

