

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	Curlycup Gumweed	Milk thistle	Russian Olive
Baby's breath	Cutleaf nightshade	Moth mullein	Russian thistle
Bedstraw	Dalmatian toadflax	Mountain bluet	Rush Skeletonweed
Bighead knapweed	Dog Fennel	Musk thistle	Salsify
Blackberry	Diffuse knapweed	Mullein	Salt Cedar/Tamarisk
Blue Vervain	Distaff thistle	Multi-flora rose	Scentless Chamomile
Brazilian Pepper	Fetid Marigold	Mustards	Scotch thistle
Broom-like ragwort	Field Bindweed	Oakbrush	Snowberry/Buckbrush
Brown knapweed	Field Scabious	Orange hawkweed	Sow thistle
Buckbrush/snowberry	Fringed sage	Oxeye daisy	Spiny Amaranth
Bull thistle	Giant Knotweed	Pepperweed	Spotted knapweed
Burdock	Himalyan Balsam/ Policemen's Helmet	Pigweeds	Suplthur cinquefoil
Cactus	Hoarycross/White top	Plains milkweed	Sunflower
Canada goldenrod	Horehound	Plantain	Tamarisk/Salt Cedar
Carpetweed	Horse nettle	Plumeless thistle	Tartary buckwheat
Canada thistle	Italian thistle	Poison oak	Trumpet Creeper
Cheatgrass	Japanese Honeysuckle	Poison Ivy	Velvet weed
Chickory	Japanese Knotweed	Prickly pear	White top/Hoary cress
Chickweed	Kudzu	Prostrate pigweed	Wild licorice
Common crupina	Lambsquarters	Purple groundcherry	Wormwood sagewort
Common Greenbriar	Leafy spurge	Purple starthistle	Yarrow
Common milkweed	Louisiana sage	Rabbit brush	Yellow nutsedge
Common Mullein	Macartney rose	Ragweed	Yellow starthistle
Common sunflower	Maypop	Redstem pigweed	Yellow toadflax
Coyote Bush	Passionflower	Russian knapweed	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.