

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	Musk thistle
Dalmatian toadflax	Mustards
Diffuse knapweed	Rabbit brush
Distaff thistle	Russian knapweed
Field Scabious	Scotch thistle
Italian thistle	Spotted knapweed
Leafy spurge	White top/Hoary cress
Milk thistle	Yellow toadflax

Plants Educated Cows Choose To Eat

Blackberry	Plains milkweed
Broom-like ragwort	Poison Oak
Bull thistle	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
Multiflora rose	Yarrow
Netseed Lambsquarters	Yellow starthistle
Oakbrush	Yucca
Pigweed	

Plants Cows Could Eat

Brazilian peppertree
Gorse
Orange hawkweed
Oxeye daisy
Pepperweed
Scentless Chamomile

Learn more about what makes plants edible:
www.livestockforlandscapes.com/edible.htm

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