

■ Range Nutrition

The key to range nutrition is matching the needs of the grazing animal with the available forage. The needs of the animal will vary with age of animal, if mature; stage of pregnancy, if lactating; and age of nursing offspring. Nutritional value of forage will vary with stage of plant development and environmental conditions.

Tip: Nutritional quality of range plants is highest in the spring when they are actively growing, often becoming deficient upon maturity (latter half of the growing season). Grazing management can possibly enhance diet quality during the later portion of the grazing season.

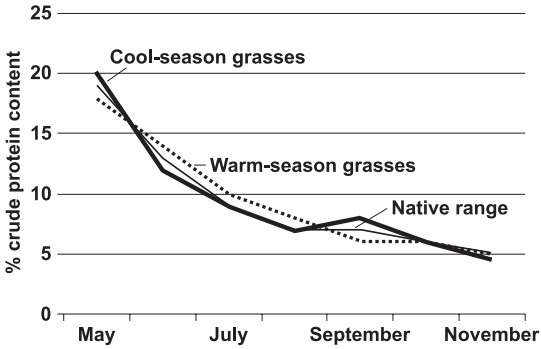


Figure 6. Crude protein content (%) of cool- and warm-season grasses and typical native range