

**STUDY ON NUTRIENT CONTENT OF AVAILABLE FORAGES
IN THE EASTERN UNIVERSITY PREMISES**



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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to evaluate the nutrient content of forages available in the university premises. Studied forage samples were, fodder and pasture grasses, legumes, tree leaves and crop residues.

The nutrient composition of forages was analyzed (proximate analyzed, fibre analyzed) at the laboratory of Department of Animal Science, Eastern University of Sri Lanka for period of 18th August to 20th December 2008. The analyzed nutrient composition were Crude protein (CP), Crude fibre (CF), and Ether extract (EE), Ash, Dry matter (DM), Neutral detergent fraction (NDF), acid detergent fraction (ADF), and acid detergent lignin (ADL) respectively.

From the study area, 70%, 10%, 15%, 30%, 30%, 80% of forage sample contained Dry matter, ash, Crude protein, neutral detergent fraction, Acid detergent fraction, and Acid detergent lignin respectively.

The study revealed that most of (80%) studied forage samples were better sources of acid detergent fraction (ADF) and crude protein content was low. but *Erithrina* and *Centro* samples crude protein content was high. crude fat content was very low in almost all forages at the study area.

In Sri Lanka context, dry season (May to September) is in severe shortage of grazing feed, which demands heavy use of crop residue and crop by-products. So, studied

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