

## **Nutritional Characteristics of Selected Grass and Browse Species From Kenya's Pastoral Ecosystems**

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**ABSTRACT** A study was conducted to determine the nutritional characteristics of selected grass and browse species from Kenya rangelands. The identified species were analyzed for their chemical composition (CP, NDF, ADL) and *in-vivo* DMD at specified stages of growth whereas browse species were analyzed at early leaf and leaf shed stages of growth. The time of high nutritive value in grasses was limited to a short period of rapid growth during the growing season. Thereafter CP rapidly declined from as high as nineteen percent to less than seven percent within a period of four weeks. *In-vivo* DMD declined and total fiber increased, thereby lowering the potential nutritive value. Browse species showed less decline in their potential nutritive value and it is apparent that they are potential supplements to grass-dependent range ruminants during the dry season.