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## Dynamic analysis of nutrient composition and digestibility of Cichorium intybus in Hohhot

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Key words :nutrient composition digestibility ,Cichorium intybus ,growth stage , crude protein

Introduction Cichorium intybus belongs to Compositae family ,Chicory genera perennial herb ,which is a cold-resistant , drought-resistant , high yielding and good-quality forage crop (N. VanStallen ,2005). Nutritient contentt and digestibility of different growth stages of Cichorium intybusv cultivated in Hohhot have been studied in this paper. The objective was to provide evidences for reviewing the nutritive values and confirming the best utilization stage

Materials and methods The mixture of stems and leaves randomly collected from two-year-old *Cichorium intybus* in Hohhot , at five growth stages in turning green stage (TGS) , bolting stage (BOS) , bud stage (BUS) , flowering stage (FLS) , and seed setting stage (SSS) . We measured the crude protein content (CP , Kai's method) , crude fiber content (CF , Acid and Alkali lotion method) , crude fat content (CRF , Ether extraction method) , adsorbed water content (ADW , Constant temperature dryness) , crude ash content (ASH , Ashing method) , digestibility (DIG , Enzymolysis method) , and nitrogen free extract content (NFE , Difference calculation method) (Na ri-su , 2006) .

Results CP , ASH and ADW linearly increased with the advance of growth . From BUS to FLS , CP rapidly decreased 4.51% . ASH and ADW decreased 2.27% and 3.83% , respectively , from BOS to BUS . CF has a maximal rise of 7.88% between BOS and BUS . The changes of CRF and NFE are not obvious during the growth period (Figure 1) .With the advancing of growth , DIG trended to decrease . There is no salient difference between BUS and FLS , but significant differences (P<0.01) occurred among the other growth stages . DIG decreased a maximum of 9.55% from BOS to BUS (Figure 2) .

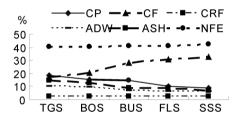


Figure 1 The nutrient composition of different growth stages.

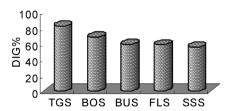


Figure 2 The digestibility of different growth stages .

Conclusions CP ,ADW ,ASH and DIG decreased with advancing growth . CF increased from TGS to SSS . With advancing growth of  $Cichorium\ intybus$ , nutritive value and digestibility declined , which has obvious changes between bolting stage and bud stage . Therefore , the bolting stage and bud stage are deemed to the best harvest stage of  $Cichorium\ intybus$ .

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