

Is It a Grass or a Legume?



alfalfa is the most common legume fed to dairy cows

Legumes:

Legumes are plants that form seeds in pods, like peas. They have broad leaves and colorful, prominent flowers. They 'fix,' or make their own 'fertilizer' from nitrogen in the air. Generally they are higher in protein than grasses.

Examples of legumes we eat include: peas, all kinds of beans, soybeans, and peanuts.



red clover



birdsfoot trefoil



white clover



mixed pasture, legume and grass

Grasses:

Grass plants typically have narrow leaves; hollow, jointed stems; and flowers at the top of the plant that become seed heads. Grasses are an excellent source of fiber for dairy cows.

We rarely see flowers and seeds on lawns because we keep mowing the grass before they can form.



meadow fescue



orchardgrass



smooth brome grass



corn is a grass, too!

May copy for educational purposes.

