

Using Fodder as Enrichment



What is fodder?

The process of germinating seed and feeding the entire seed and sprout to an animal.



What are the benefits?

SO much more for your money! One pound of seed can produce eight pounds of fodder.



Nutritional benefits are HUGE!

- Digestible energy
- Vitamins A, C, E, B
- Minerals
- Amino acids
- Proteins
- Antioxidants a protective and phytochemicals
- Protective and disease preventative properties
- Filled with digestive enzymes that break down the food consumed, making it absorbable.



Research suggests that the period of time with the most digestive enzymes is between germination and seven days...up to almost 100 times more than in full-grown plants!



We got the idea from private finch breeders who use this method right before the nesting season to help boost production and promote healthy breeding. Since using this method for our passerines at Pinola Conservancy, we have observed a noticeable increase in successful reproduction of many passerines, some of which we kept for years but never historically attempted to nest (white-eared sibia, Southern yellow grosbeak)



There are many ways to grow fodder. We do it hydroponically in our greenhouse. Hydroponically-produced livestock feed has been commonly used in Europe and Australia for decades but is still a relatively new idea here in the US.

We hope to continue to further utilize this method and further our knowledge of the benefits this system brings to our collection.







Thank you!

