



Forage Importance of Trees and Shrubs in Goat Production Systems of the Northeast of Durango, Mexico

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Frequently, the forage value of trees and shrubs is underestimated in arid and semiarid areas. The goal of this study was to evaluate the forage production of the trees *Prosopis glandulosa* and *Acacia farnesiana* and the shrub *Atriplex canescens* in seasons that these plants are browsed by goats or harvested by goatherds. The study was carried out in common lands of three ejidos of the Northeast of Durango State Mexico. The mean precipitation is 240 mm and mean temperature is 21°C. Randomly, 24 plots of 10 x 5 m were located. Number of plants of each species was registered. Also, height and larger diameter of the canopy were measured. The *Acacia farnesiana* production was estimated taking four of ten branches chopped. These branches were dried exposing them to the sun light and leaves separated of the wood. Number of branches was counted in each plant and production estimated. Ten random plants of *Prosopis glandulosa* were taken to estimate the fruit production. Twenty *Atriplex canescens* plants were randomly chopped and dried with sunlight. The density was 17142 ± 14919 , 4015 ± 1471 y 2681 ± 1847 plants/ha of *Atriplex canescens*, *Prosopis glandulosa* and *Acacia farnesiana*, respectively. Forage production per plant of *Atriplex canescens* and *Acacia farnesiana* was $.56 \pm .186$ y 1.46 ± 1.11 kg of dry matter respectively. Fruit production per plant of *Prosopis glandulosa* was 5.87 ± 2.52 kg of dry matter.

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