

# Chinchilla Diet

Chinchillas are herbivores, which means they only eat plant-based foods. They have a very sensitive digestive system and require a very fiber-rich diet. In the wild, they would eat grasses, leaves, twigs, roots, and stems. As pets, a chinchilla's diet should be mostly high-quality grass, hay, and some pellets.

## Hay:

Your chinchilla's diet should be 80–90% grass or hay. Timothy hay, orchard grass hay, oat hay, or meadow hay are great options. Avoid alfalfa hay because it is too high in calcium and could cause bladder stones to develop. Unlimited hay should be available 24 hours a day.

## Pellets:

Pellets should also be offered to your chinchilla daily. Look for a plain (*no seeds, nuts, dried fruit, etc.*) hay-based pellet. Adult chinchillas should receive 1–2 tablespoons of pellets a day.

## Fresh Produce:

Chinchillas only need about one teaspoon of fresh produce a day. Small amounts of kale, parsley, pumpkin, celery, green leaf lettuce (*no ice berg*), carrots, parsnip, bell peppers, corn, apples (*no seeds*), pears, strawberries, or raspberries. Dried flowers and herbs such as rosehips, dandelions, hibiscus, parsley, peppermint, thyme, or mint make a great healthy snack. Avoid sugary snacks.

## Water:

A clean water bottle with unlimited fresh water should be available to your chinchilla daily. Bowls of water are not recommended because they can be easily spilled; it is best to avoid your chinchilla getting wet due to their dense fur.

