Plant Response to Grazing

Plants use to strategies to deal with defoliation (i.e., grazing or mowing)

1) Defend yourself to AVOID being grazed

2) Be able to survive and TOLERATE grazing

Avoid – Thorns, Spines & Awns

- Slow down intake
- Cause pain

Avoid – Toxins and Anti-Quality

- Kill animal
- Make animal sick
- Cause pain

Tolerate Defoliation - Response Depends On:

- Location of Growth Points

  Meristems = growth points for new leaves and stems

- Resources for recovery
  o Moisture
  o Nutrients
  o Time

- Carbohydrates (Energy) for Regrowth
  o Leaves photosynthesize and create energy
  o Some energy stored in roots

SPRING better than FALL

MOIST better than DRY