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Most common yard weeds are perfectly safe for chickens to eat, as long as they haven't been sprayed with any fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide, so feel free to pick a handful and toss them into your run. But to get you started and give you some ideas, I thought I would share with you some chicken favourites. Most of these weeds grow nationwide.

1. Chickweed - Go figure, chickens like a weed called chickweed! Feed this super nutritious weed to baby chicks in the brooder as well as my laying hens. It is also a natural pain reliever so good for any hen in any kind of distress.
2. Clover - Clover is one of the most nutritionally complete you can feed your chickens, so go pick them a nice handful.
3. Dandelion - Dandelion leaves, roots and flowers are also extremely nutritious and grow wild in nearly every area of the country.
4. Wild Strawberry - Wild strawberries are a big favourite. They also love cultivated strawberries of course.
5. Bitter Cress - Bitter cress is another plentiful weed that appears in cooler weather. The ducks especially seem to enjoy it.
6. Smartweed - Grows as a ground cover with pretty pink flowers. Another big flock favorite.
7. Beautyberry - Beautyberry isn't terribly nutritious but the chickens keep busy happily plucking the tiny brilliant purple berries off the stalk.

Take a walk around your yard or neighbourhood to see what kinds of weeds you can find to supplement your chickens' diet.

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