San Francisco Zoo's Browse Program:

The San Francisco Zoo continually supplies natural, homegrown browse materials (branches and leaves of eucalyptus, coprosma, acacia, bamboo and other trees and shrubs) to our animals that feed on them. This enriches their diets and stimulates their senses.

2 employees work daily collecting browse Total amount of browse per year: 60 tons

The zoo's most significant browsers are the koalas. Koalas have adapted to the eucalyptus leave's oils that are toxic to most other animals. Since these picky marsupials need three varieties of fresh eucalyptus daily, meeting their daily needs requires the cutting of 120 to 160 branches, each four to five feet long! Koalas get most their water requirement from the Eucalyptus, which contains 40-60% water. They eat only the top 3-4" of the browse and will eat only certain types of Eucalyptus. The zoo team harvests from 15 species of the approximately 50 species grown in California. The browse is taken from the zoo grounds as well as surrounding areas.



Total amount of eucalyptus cut for koalas per year: 24 tons

Coprosma is a genus of shrubs or small trees of the family Rubiaceae found in New Zealand, Australia, and Hawaii. This browse is supplied to hoofstock of the zoo.

Total amount of coprosma cut per year: 6 tons/year



Acacia longifolia, originally from Australia, is eaten by the zoo's hoofstock, primates and birds. About 800 species of Acacia shrubs and trees inhabit the Earth's warmer climates, especially temperate parts of Australia, where the trees are called wattles. Acacias are cultivated in many areas where they are not native. Acacias are cultivated for their beauty, their shade, waterproof wood, gum arabic, and pleasant scent.

Total amount of *Acacia longifolia* cut per year: 30 tons

