

## Growth and Laying Performance of Commercial Hens Fed with Varying Levels of *Trichanthera gigantea* (Nees.) Leaf Meal

**Authors :** Carmel Khrisna Wong Moreno, Dinah M. Espina

**Abstract :** The increasing price of feed ingredients has prompted farmers to seek feasible feed alternatives like the utilization of locally-grown protein-rich feedstuff which is cheaper but gives a positive result in poultry production. *Trichanthera gigantea*, a fodder tree which is an excellent alternative as feed ingredient in the Philippines has now gained popularity as feed supplement. This study was conducted to determine the growth and laying performance of commercial hens fed with varying levels of *Trichanthera gigantea* leaf meal. The incorporation of *Trichanthera gigantea* leaf meal at 5%, 10%, and 15% into the diet of commercial hens did not affect the growth and laying performance. Results of the study revealed that the weight gain of the birds fed with *Trichanthera gigantea* supplemented diets was not significantly different with the control (100% commercial layer mash). The voluntary feed intake, feed conversion ratio, weekly average egg weight and egg production of the commercial hens fed with *T. gigantea* leaf meal supplemented diets were not significantly different from the control. Results of the study showed that the supplementation of *Trichanthera gigantea* leaf meal of up to 15% into the diets of commercial hens is highly acceptable since it does not affect the growth and laying performance of the birds. In addition, it would mean a 15% savings in production cost from commercial feeds.

**Keywords :** egg production, growth, laying performance, *trichanthera gigantea* (nees)

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