

What do chinchillas eat in the wild?

Long-tailed chinchillas

- 1) *Nasella chilensis*
A kind of tussockgrass which grows in arid conditions.
- 2) *Puya berteroniana*
A succulent (bromeliad), an important water source.
- 3) *Bridgesia incisifolia*
A kind of woody shrub.

Short-tailed chinchillas

- 1) *Festuca grasses*
Several species of sharp, spiny grasses that grow near deserts.
- 2) *Senecio chilensis*
Another kind of tiny shrub.
- 3) *Stipa chrysophylla*
Another kind of grass!

Fascinating Facts:

Wild chinchillas may eat insects, but no evidence has been found of this so far.

The term for an animal that primarily eats leaves and blades of grass, like a chinchilla, is a *folivore*.

Pet chinchillas can't eat what wild chinchillas eat; this is one of the reasons why introducing pet chinchillas to the wild doesn't work.