



Figure 1.1. Proportions of dry weight of organic materials relative to the growth stages of cool season grasses (adapted from Blaser et al., 1986). As grasses mature from leaf to bloom stage, dry matter, fiber and lignin increase as the plants become more stemmy. Non-structural carbohydrate (NSC) peaks during the rapid growth of the boot and heading stages, and protein peaks during the late heading/early bloom stages.