

HOW TO SELECT AN ALFALFA VARIETY:

Determine an appropriate fall dormancy class

Alfalfa varieties differ in fall dormancy defined as growth during the fall. Nondormant alfalfa varieties are usually planted in mild winter areas for their ability to grow in the late fall, winter, and early spring. However, cool season growth of nondormant alfalfa may be undesirable in areas subject to repeated frosts or freezes. Nondormant, very nondormant, and extremely nondormant alfalfa varieties (fall dormancy class 8, 9, and 10) are adapted to elevations below 4000 feet in Arizona. Other dormancy classes not included in this publication are moderately nondormant varieties (fall dormancy class 7) which may be grown from 3000 to 5000 feet, and semi-dormant and dormant varieties (fall dormancy 6 and below) which are adapted to colder winter areas above 4000 feet.

Identify potential pest problems

Select alfalfa varieties that have resistance to potential pest problems. Variety resistance is not available or not characterized for many important pests. However, pest resistance ratings are provided in this publication for anthracnose, Phytophthora root rot, various aphids, and stem and root knot nematode. Anthracnose occurs in the lower Colorado River area during hot, humid weather. Phytophthora root rot can be a problem on poorly drained soils during cool weather. Aphids occur in most production areas. Stem nematode has been reported in Maricopa, Pinal, Graham, and Yuma Counties. Root knot nematode has been identified in the lower Colorado River area, but usually is not important. Some diseases common to other alfalfa production areas such as bacterial, fusarium, and verticillium wilt are not known to occur in Arizona.

Decide on importance of salt tolerance and Roundup Ready

Alfalfa varieties are available that have salt tolerance or are Roundup Ready. Ratings are provided in this publication.

Determine the importance of yield and stand

Many of the varieties listed in this publication have been tested for yield and final stand by the University of Arizona in small plot trials. A summary of these trials is provided on the facing page.

Field-test several promising varieties

Plant several promising varieties in narrow strips or small areas of a few acres and evaluate performance under your own conditions.

Choose a variety (or two) for large-scale planting

Plant new varieties on no more than 80 acres or 25% of the newly seeded acreage. Planting inexpensive seed of a poorly-adapted variety costs in the long-run. A difference in seed cost of \$1.00 per pound is easily recovered by a more productive variety in the first year. Non-certified seed is also undesirable due to poor seed quality, introduction of weeds, and the possibility of planting an incorrectly identified variety with undesirable characteristics.



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Nondormant Alfalfa Varieties for Arizona 2013



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Pest resistance ratings¹, yield, and final stand for nondormant alfalfa varieties in Arizona (2013).

Variety	Marketing Contact	Pest resistance ratings ²							Salt tolerance ³	Technology ⁴	Yield % of Avg ⁵	Final Stand % of Avg
		Anthraco-nose	Phytoph-thora root rot	Spotted alfalfa aphid	Pea aphid	Blue alfalfa aphid	Stem nematode	Southern root knot nematode				
Nondormant (Fall dormancy class = 8)												
58R51	Pioneer	R	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	HR		R		
AmeriStand 803T	America's Alfalfa	MR	HR	R	HR		HR	HR				
AmeriStand 855T	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	HR			R	R	F	R		
Desert Sun 8.10RR	Croplan	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	MR		R		
DKA84-10RR	DeKalb	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR		R	101	93
GrandSlam	Crop Production	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R				
HybriForce-800	Dairyland	HR	R	MR	MR	HR	HR	HR		H	99	99
Integra 8800	Wilbur-Ellis	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR				
LaJolla	Imperial Valley	HR	R	R	R	R	MR	MR				
Magna 801FQ	Dairyland	MR	HR	R	R	R	R	HR				
Pacifico	Eureka	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R				
PGI 801	Producer's Choice	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR				
Revolution	Nexgrow Alfalfa	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	G	R		
RRALF 8R100	Eureka	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	R		R		
Sequoia	Nexgrow Alfalfa	MR	R	R	R	HR	HR	HR				
SW 8210	S & W	MR	HR	HR	MR	MR	MR	R			99	78
SW 8421S	S & W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	F		104	106
SW 8718	S & W	MR	HR	R	R	R	MR	R				
WL 535HQ	W-L Research	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	G			
WL 550.RR	W-L Research	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R		R		
Very Nondormant (Fall dormancy class = 9)												
59N59	Pioneer	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	HR				
6906N	Nexgrow Alfalfa	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	G			
AmeriStand 901TS	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R	G/F	R	103	98
AmeriStand 915TS	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R				
CUF101	Public	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	MR			104	111
Catalina	Imperial Valley	R	HR	HR	R	MR	HR	HR			101	102
Lew	Public	S	R	S	S	S	R	R			104	101
Magna 901	Dairyland	MR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R			96	98
Magna 995	Dairyland	MR	HR	HR	R	R	HR	R			101	107
Mecca	Producer's Choice	LR	MR	HR	HR	MR	LR	HR			104	88
Mecca II	Producer's Choice	LR	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R			99	73
Mecca III	Producer's Choice	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R			105	103
PGI 908-S	Producer's Choice	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R			107	108
PGI 909	Producer's Choice	R	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	G/F			
Pinal 9	Nexgrow Alfalfa	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R		R		
SALTANA	Imperial Valley	R	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	F		104	110
Sun Quest	Croplan	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	G			
SW 9215	S & W	R	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	F		104	114
SW 9628	S & W	LR	R	HR	R	R	R	HR			105	96
SW 9720	S & W	R	HR	HR	HR	R	MR	HR	F		107	107
UCCibola	Public	MR	HR	HR	R	LR	R	R			98	105
WL 656HQ	W-L Research	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	G		105	100
WL 660.RR	W-L Research	R	HR	R	HR	HR	R	R		R	99	98
WL 662.RR	W-L Research	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	G			
Extremely Nondormant (Fall dormancy class = 10)												
A-1086	Producer's Choice	R	HR	HR	R	R	R	HR	G		102	101
CW 1010	Producer's Choice	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	G		101	97
PGI 1007	Producer's Choice	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR				
SW 10	S & W	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R			100	98
WL 712	W-L Research	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R			102	95

¹ Pest resistance ratings from "Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy and Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties 2013 Edition", National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance, <http://www.alfalfa.org/pdf/2013%20NAFA%20Variety%20Leaflet.pdf>

² Resistance classes: HR = high resistance, R = resistance, MR = moderate resistance, LR = low resistance, and S = susceptible.

³ Salt tolerance: G = germination, F = forage.

⁴ Technology: H = hybrid, R = Roundup Ready.

⁵ % of Avg: Variety performance as a % of the average in trials.