

Cooperative Extension

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Alfalfa Report Yuma County, Arizona January 28, 2002

Production Update:

Hay Preservatives (Part 1) Hay preservatives allow hay to be baled at moisture contents ranging from 25 to 30% without damage from heat and mold. The advantage of baling at a higher moisture content, of course, is to lessen harvesting and storage losses, decrease the chance of rain damage, extend the period during the day when baling is possible, and improve hay quality. Hay preservatives are normally applied with the baler. Preservatives are most economical when they allow rain damage to be avoided.

Insect Management: Egyptian alfalfa weevil populations are building in hay fields. The first management step is to sample alfalfa fields every 2 to 4 days after weevil larvae first appear. Sample each field quadrant by taking 5 sweeps with a standard net. Count the number of weevil larvae in each 5 sweep sample and add the totals for each of the field quadrants. Divide the grand total for the field by the total number of sweeps (20). The field should be treated with an insecticide registered for weevil control when the average number of larvae reaches or exceeds 20 per sweep. If sweep counts are 10 to 15 larvae per sweep just before cutting, then applying malathion under the windrows may be considered.

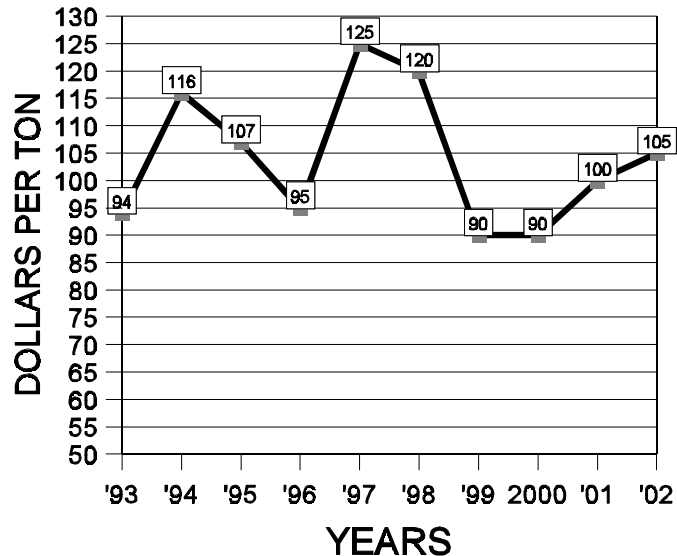
Weed Control: In addition to the 12 herbicides that are registered and used to varying degrees in Arizona, there are at least a few more that are being evaluated or registered. These include Raptor, Visor and Sandea. There are more herbicides registered on alfalfa than on many crops grown in Arizona.

Market Summary:

Past 2 Weeks (Jan 15, 2002 - Jan 27, 2002)
 Last Year (Jan 15, 2001 - Jan 27, 2001)

	High	Low	Average	Off grade
Past 2 Weeks (Jan 15, 2002 - Jan 27, 2002)	115	100	105	90-100
Last Year (Jan 15, 2001 - Jan 27, 2001)	105	95	100	70-90

10 Year Summary (January 15, to January 27, 1993 - 2002)



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