

# Cooperative Extension

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## Alfalfa Report Yuma County, Arizona February 11, 2002

### Production Update:

**Hay Preservatives (Part 2):** Chemical hay preservatives include organic acids (especially propionic acid), ammonia, and urea. Propionic acid is generally thought to be the most reliable preservative, although other compounds are also effective. Horses do not relish hay treated with propionic acid, although no evidence exists to date that this compound is harmful to them. Ammonia can be used as a preservative and is often applied in an effort to boost feed value of low quality hay. Anhydrous ammonia applied at rates greater than 3% may cause toxic compounds to form and pass into milk. Urea does not have the volatility and safety problems of ammonia and is an effective preservative.

**Insect Management:** Clover root curculio adults are small gray and brown mottled weevils that are often confused with Egyptian alfalfa weevil adults. Clover root curculio adults have a short blunt snout and are about 2/3 the size of alfalfa weevil adults which have a longer pointed snout. Little is known about the potential damage from clover root curculio. The adults feed on foliage and stems and do not cause economic damage. Larvae feed on roots and on some occasions may cause damage, but the seriousness of this damage has not been assessed. No treatment recommendations exist for this pest. It is important not to confuse the clove root curculio with Egyptian alfalfa weevil.

**Weed Control:** DON'T WAIT, now is the time to apply preemergence herbicides for summer annual weeds. These weeds could germinate any time now on unshaded soil or in areas where soil temperatures are higher. Remember that it is better to be a month early than a day late.

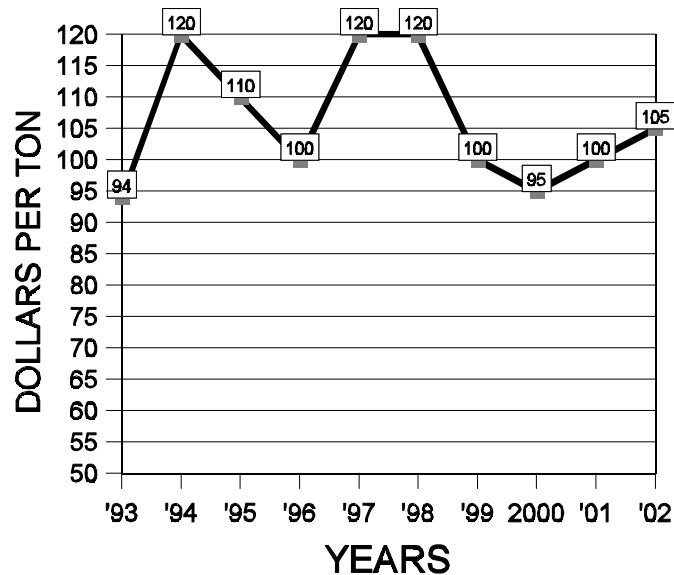
### Market Summary:

Past 2 Weeks (Jan 29, 2002 - Feb 10, 2002)  
 Last Year (Jan 29, 2001 - Feb 10, 2001)

High	Low	Average	Off grade
115	100	105	90-100
105	95	100	70-90

### 10 Year Summary

(January 29, to  
 February 10, 1993 - 2002)



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