

Cooperative Extension

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Alfalfa Report Yuma County, Arizona March 11, 2002

Production Update:

Cutting schedules: In the low desert valleys of Arizona, cutting is recommended when most of the crown buds have started regrowth but before they are greater than 2 inches in length. Cutting at one-tenth bloom is not satisfactory under our conditions since 1) length of regrowth from crown buds in Arizona can vary from 1 to 4 inches at one-tenth bloom depending on the time of the year and 2) in late winter and early spring, alfalfa does not flower in our low desert valleys because of cool temperatures and short daylengths. If cutting is delayed and the crown regrowth is harvested, plant development is slowed since new crown growth must develop.

Insect Management: Before treating Egyptian alfalfa weevil larvae with an insecticide, 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). Treated with an insecticide registered for weevil control in alfalfa 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, applying malathion under the windrows may be considered.

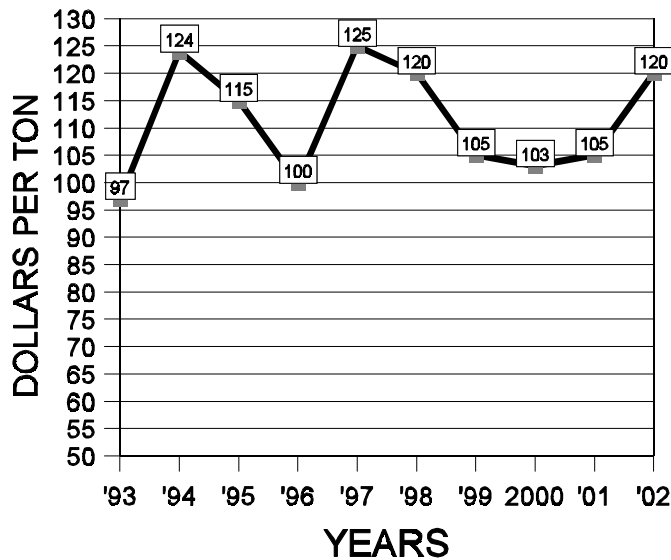
Weed Control: Raptor is a new alfalfa herbicide that will soon be available in Arizona. It has been developed by BASF and is similar to Pursuit but more effective on sowthistle, prickly lettuce, lambsquarters and grasses. Half of the active ingredient as is applied with Pursuit is utilized and the plant-back restriction should not be as long.

Market Summary:

Past 2 Weeks (Feb 26, 2002 - Mar 11, 2002)
 Last Year (Feb 26, 2001 - Mar 11, 2001)

	High	Low	Average	Off grade
Past 2 Weeks (Feb 26, 2002 - Mar 11, 2002)	125	105	120	90-105
Last Year (Feb 26, 2001 - Mar 11, 2001)	115	100	105	70-95

10 Year Summary (February 26, to March 11, 1993 - 2002)



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