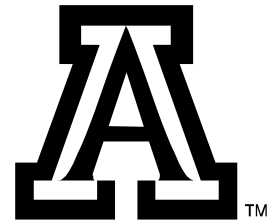


Cooperative Extension

The University of Arizona
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Yuma Agricultural Center
Yuma, AZ

Alfalfa Report
Yuma County, Arizona
September 20, 2004



Production Update:

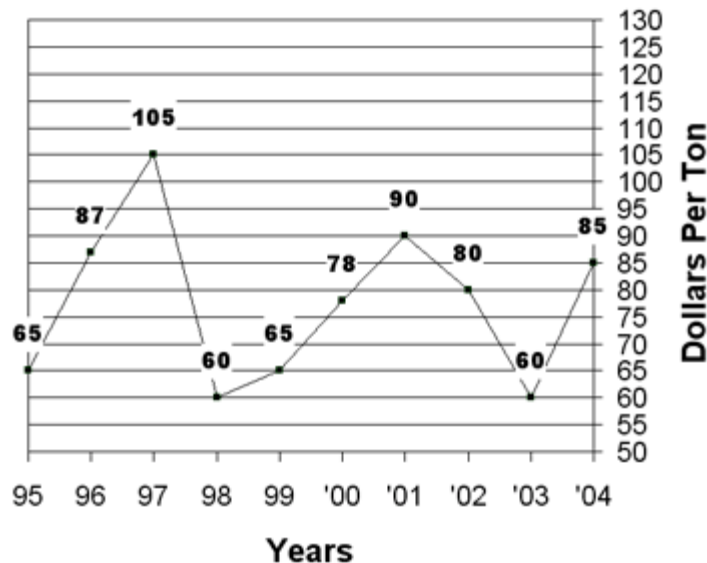
Stand Replacement: The decision to replace alfalfa stands is based on stand establishment costs, opportunities in other crops, hay price, and yield of the alfalfa stand in question. Historical yields for the farm can provide a good idea whether or not a stand should be replaced. A stand should be replaced if plant density is less than 4 to 6 plants per square foot or if the number of stems is less than 40 per square foot. Optimum plant density can be considerably higher if the plants are not distributed uniformly. Renovating alfalfa stands by overseeding with alfalfa is rarely effective except in relatively large bare spots. Delay seeding alfalfa into a field previously in alfalfa by 2 to 4 weeks to avoid autotoxicity.

Insect Management: Cowpea aphid can be a pest of seedling alfalfa. Cowpea aphid is the only black aphid found in our alfalfa. When stands of alfalfa become heavily infested with cowpea aphid, an insecticide treatment may be warranted to prevent stunting and leaf drop, and to prevent honeydew and sooty mold contamination. Treatment thresholds have not been established for cowpea aphid on alfalfa.

Weed Control: Although the mode of action and chemical composition of the grass herbicides, Poast, Select, Fusilade, Assure and others, are very similar, their activity on certain grasses varies. Sprangletop, for instance, is not controlled by Poast but is by Select.

Market Summary:	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Off grade</u>
Past 2 weeks	90	80	85	70-80
Last year	65	55	60	50-55

10 Year Summary (Sept 3 to Sept 20, 1995-2004):



This and other Alfalfa Reports can be found on the web at: <http://cals.arizona.edu/crops/counties/yuma/alfalfareports/>

Barry R. Tickes
Extension Agent, Agriculture
Yuma County
Extension

Michael Ottman
Extension Agronomist
University of Arizona

Eric T. Natwick
Farm Advisor, Entomology
Imperial County Cooperative

*Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, James A. Christenson, Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Arizona.
The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is an equal opportunity employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, Vietnam Era Veteran's status, or disability.*