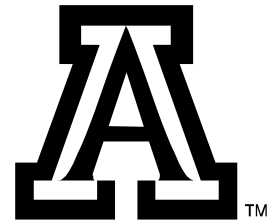


Cooperative Extension

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

Alfalfa Report Yuma County, Arizona June 2, 2004



Production Update:

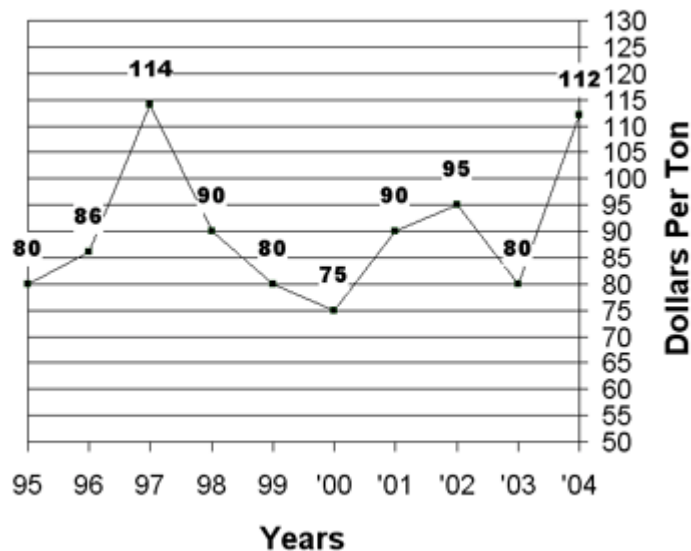
Adding Moisture to Windrows: Producing high quality hay in hot, dry desert areas is a challenge due leaf loss when raking or baling. Growers typically wait for dew to appear late at night or early in the morning. Leaf losses can range from 5 to 10% even under the best conditions, and can be as high as 20% or more if the leaves become too dry. Windrow moisture can be increased by irrigating closer to cutting or by applying moisture to the windrow. Moisture can be applied to windrows with equipment as simple as a water truck or with specially designed spraying equipment.

Insect Management: Alfalfa looper, *Autographa californica* (Speyer), is a minor pest of desert alfalfa. They are often present with alfalfa caterpillars or beet armyworms in sweep samples. Larvae move with a characteristic looping motion by bringing their hind prolegs forward to meet the true legs. Eggs are laid singly, larvae hatch within a few days, and feed for about two weeks devouring alfalfa leaves. The looper larva spin a loose white cocoon among the leaves to pupate. In about ten days to two weeks moths emerge. The entire cycle is completed in about a month. Alfalfa loopers are rarely of economic importance in Arizona or California due to natural control. This insect is usually held in check by parasitic wasps, parasitic flies, and bacterial, fungal and viral disease.

Weed Control: Dodder is becoming increasingly widespread. It can be effectively controlled preemergence with multiple applications of trifluralin granules. Post emergence control can only be successful if the current crop foliage is destroyed along with the dodder that is living off of it. Any contact treatment that desiccates the crop but does not effect the below ground portion of the alfalfa will work.

Market Summary:	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Off grade</u>
Past 2 weeks	120	95	112	80-95
Last year	85	75	80	70-80

10 Year Summary (May 18 to June 2, 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.*