

Western Colorado Alfalfa Variety Performance Test at Fruita 2008

Calvin H. Pearson[†]

Summary

The 2008 results of Colorado State University's alfalfa variety performance test at Fruita are presented below in Table 1. Plots were planted during fall 2007 and data for 2008 are for the first year of a three-year testing period. Alfalfa stands are excellent and plots were weed-free throughout the 2008 growing season. The field is furrow-irrigated using gated pipe.

Table 1. Forage yields of 16 alfalfa varieties at the Western Colorado Research Center at Fruita in 2008.¹

Variety	Source/Brand	1 st Cut	2 nd Cut	3 rd Cut	4 th Cut	2008
		May 21	June 30	Aug 6	Sept 26	Total ²
		tons/acre ³				
Mountaineer 2.0	Croplan Genetics	2.69	1.88	2.21	1.60	8.38
AmeriStand 444NT	America's Alfalfa	2.47	2.01	2.13	1.48	8.10
Masterpiece	JR Simplot Co	2.55	1.99	2.15	1.39	8.08
TS4028	Target Seed	2.56	1.92	2.17	1.36	8.00
Medalist	Intermountain Farmers Assoc.	2.43	1.93	2.17	1.47	7.99
Garst 6552	Garst Seed	2.51	1.97	2.10	1.34	7.92
WL 363HQ	W-L Research	2.37	1.96	2.14	1.38	7.85
PGI 424	Producer's Choice	2.42	1.88	2.16	1.36	7.81
AmeriStand 407TQ	America's Alfalfa	2.37	1.83	2.14	1.44	7.78
WL 343HQ	W-L Research	2.40	1.78	2.09	1.49	7.76
FSG 5285F	Allied Seed	2.44	1.70	2.10	1.41	7.66
TS4002	Target Seed	2.40	1.68	2.08	1.50	7.66
Garst 6415	Garst Seed	2.40	1.72	2.16	1.37	7.65
Archer III	America's Alfalfa	2.26	1.84	2.08	1.37	7.55
EXP6452	Garst Seed	2.58	1.70	2.02	1.26	7.55
Lariat	JR Simplot Co	2.21	1.76	2.11	1.30	7.39
Ave.		2.44	1.85	2.13	1.41	7.82
CV (%)		7.6	9.9	4.7	9.9	4.9
LSD (0.05)		NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

¹Seeded 20 August 2007 at 15 lbs/acre.

²Table is arranged by decreasing 2008 total yield.

³Yields were calculated on an air-dry basis.

Last spring frost – May 2, 2008; first fall frost – October 13, 2008. Frost-free days for 2008 - 164 days (28EF base). Fertilizer: 140 lbs P₂O₅/acre and 30 lbs N/acre broadcast as 11-52-0 on August 16, 2007. Applied Raptor at 6.0 oz/acre plus clethodium at 1 pt/acre (1 qt/acre crop oil concentrate and 1 gal. of URAN fertilizer in 100 gallons of water) using 21 gals water/acre at 30 psi for weed control on 20 Mar 2008.

[†] Contact information: Colorado State University
Agricultural Experiment Station, Western Colorado
Research Center – Fruita, 1910 L Road, Fruita, CO
81521. Ph. 970-858-3629; Fax 970-858-0461;
email: calvin.pearson@colostate.edu