

San Luis Valley, Colorado, Alfalfa Variety Performance Test at Center, 2008

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Summary

The 2008 results of Colorado State University's alfalfa variety performance test at Center are presented below in Table 1. Plots were planted in July 2006 and the data for 2007-8 are the first two years of a three-year testing period. Alfalfa stands are excellent and plots were fairly well weed-free both years. The field had insecticide applied for alfalfa weevil prior to second cutting this year. The field is center-pivot irrigated as needed.

Summer in 2007 was warmer than normal. The first harvest was excellent; the second cutting was rained on, and the third cutting yield was disappointing. The summer of 2008 started cool with first harvest later than normal. The summer remained cool which slowed growth. There was rain in July again, but it caused less problems than last year.

Table 1. Forage yields of 16 alfalfa varieties at Center, CO (San Luis Valley)^{2/} in 2007-8.

Variety	Source	2008	2008	2008	Total	Total	2-Year
		6/16	7/22	9/16	2008	2007	Average
-----tons/acre-----							
FSG 406	Allied Seed	2.68	2.13	1.33	6.13*	5.56*	5.85*
L 447 HD	Legacy Seeds	2.51	2.02	1.29	5.81*	5.74*	5.77*
Lariat 120	JR Simplot Co	2.55	2.03	1.26	5.84*	5.64*	5.74*
Ameristand 407TQ	America's Alfalfa	2.48	2.09	1.26	5.82*	5.58*	5.70*
Genoa	NK/Syngenta	2.33	2.05	1.20	5.58*	5.69*	5.63*
WL 357 HQ	WL Research	2.39	2.04	1.21	5.65*	5.61*	5.63*
Mountaineer 2.0	Croplan Genetics	2.35	2.09	1.34	5.78*	5.44	5.61*
FSG 351	Allied Seed	2.27	1.96	1.16	5.39	5.82*	5.61*
Ranger	USDA-NE AES	2.27	1.93	1.18	5.38	5.65*	5.51*
54V09	Pioneer	2.31	2.05	1.22	5.58*	5.42	5.50*
Whitney	Eureka Seeds	2.20	1.92	1.20	5.32	5.56*	5.44
FSG 408 DP	Allied Seed	2.26	1.89	1.24	5.39	5.44	5.42
Vernal	USDA-WI AES	2.22	1.88	1.17	5.27	5.43	5.35
WL 355 RR	WL Research	2.33	1.95	1.14	5.43	5.03	5.23
Medalist	Int. Farmers Assoc.	2.41	1.98	1.05	4.88	5.50	5.19
FSG 425 RR	Allied Seed	2.32	1.86	1.12	4.71	5.14	4.93
Average		2.37	1.99	1.21	5.50	5.52	5.51
CV (%)		7.15	8.44	10.0	10.4	4.49	6.22
LSD (0 .10)^{4/}		0.20	0.20	N.S.	0.68	0.29	0.41

^{2/} Trial conducted on the Richard Ramstetter Farm, Saguache County Road 44 & Road B; seeded 7/20/06 at 20 lbs/acre.

^{3/} Yields calculated on oven-dry basis.

^{4/} Least Significant Difference: Yield differences less than LSD are not statistically different.

* The top yield group (LSD 10%) is designated with an asterisk.

Site Information:

Elevation = 7700 ft.

Average annual precipitation = 6.92 inches.

Average frost-free days = 88days (32⁰F).

Average last spring frost - June 10; average first fall frost - September 6.

Soil Series: Platoro Loam / Norte gravelly sandy loam.

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