

Western Colorado Alfalfa Variety Performance Test at Fruita 2012

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Summary

The first year cutting results for 2012 in the Colorado State University's alfalfa variety performance test at Fruita are presented below in Table 1. Plots were planted on August 30, 2011 and data for 2012 are for the first year of the 3-year testing period. Alfalfa stands are excellent and the field is weed-free. The field is furrow-irrigated using gated pipe. The 2012 growing season was excellent for producing alfalfa hay in western Colorado as we had little rain.

Table 1. Forage yields of 18 alfalfa varieties at the Western Colorado Research Center at Fruita in 2012.¹

Variety	Source/Brand	1 st cut May 21	2 nd cut June 26	3 rd cut Aug 8	4 th cut Sept 24	2012 total
				tons/acre ²		
Gunner	Croplan Genetics	2.06	2.19	3.06	1.92	9.23
Ameristand 445NT	America's Alfalfa	1.84	2.18	3.20	1.96	9.18
FGI 48W203	Forage Genetics	1.93	2.20	3.06	1.82	9.01
Ameristand 407TQ	America's Alfalfa	1.99	2.04	3.05	1.86	8.94
FSG 639ST	Allied Seed	2.11	2.06	2.90	1.87	8.94
WL363HQ	W-L Research	1.87	2.01	3.15	1.91	8.93
Rebound 6.0	Croplan Genetics	1.89	2.13	3.10	1.79	8.90
WL354HQ	W-L Research	1.85	2.06	3.13	1.80	8.84
DKA50-18	Monsanto	1.78	2.12	3.02	1.85	8.77
DKA43-13	Monsanto	1.78	2.11	2.89	1.90	8.68
FGI 48W202	Forage Genetics	1.65	2.06	3.10	1.83	8.64
FSG 429SN	Allied Seed	1.94	2.07	2.73	1.86	8.59
6431	Nexgrow	1.89	1.86	2.97	1.84	8.56
6305Q	Nexgrow	1.79	1.89	2.91	1.84	8.44
FGI 48W201	Forage Genetics	1.72	1.97	2.90	1.84	8.43
6422Q	Nexgrow	1.64	1.94	2.95	1.83	8.36
Archer III	America's Alfalfa	1.63	2.04	3.01	1.67	8.35
FGI 48A179	Forage Genetics	1.75	1.93	2.78	1.83	8.30
Ave.		1.84	2.05	2.99	1.85	8.73
CV (%)		11.3	7.4	7.8	6.6	5.6
LSD (0.05)		NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

¹Seeded 30 August, 2011 at 15 lbs/acre.

²Yields were calculated on an air-dry basis. The forage was green chopped and within 2-3 days after harvest the alfalfa was irrigated. Yields are sorted numerically from highest to lowest.

Last spring frost – April 16, 2012; first fall frost – October 7, 2012. Frost-free days for 2012 – 174 (28°F base). Fertilizer: 300 lbs P₂O₅/acre and 63 lbs N/acre broadcast as 11-52-0 on August 10, 2011. Applied Intensity at 12.0 oz/acre (plus 1 qt/acre crop oil concentrate and 1 qt of UAN fertilizer in 100 gallons of water) using 22 gallons water/acre at 30 psi for weed control on Sept 28, 2011. Applied Raptor at 6 oz/acre (plus 1 qt/acre crop oil concentrate and 1 gallon of URAN fertilizer in 60 gallons of water) using 22 gallons water/acre at 30 psi for weed control on Oct. 10, 2011.

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Alfalfa Variety Performance Test at Rocky Ford—2012

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Summary

The 2012 results of Colorado State University's irrigated alfalfa variety test at Rocky Ford are presented in Table 1 below. This is the second year of a three-year testing period. The plots were furrow irrigated and efforts were taken to maintain a pest-free environment. During the 2012 growing season, five total cuttings were taken off the plots.

Table 1. Forage yields of 12 alfalfa varieties at the Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford in 2012.¹

Variety	Source	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Total Yield tons/acre 2012	2-yr Total tons/acre ²
		Cutting 15-May-12	Cutting 19-Jun-12	Cutting 17-Jul-12	Cutting 14-Aug-12	Cutting 17-Sep-12		
		----- tons/acre ³ -----						
FSG 6395T	Allied Seed	3.10	2.36	2.00	1.32	1.30	10.08	20.57
6422Q	Forage Genetics	3.33	2.58	2.19	1.41	1.35	10.87	20.55
HybriForce- 2400	Dairyland Seed	3.10	2.43	1.91	1.22	1.12	9.77	20.27
Archer III	America's	3.15	2.44	2.32	1.36	1.40	10.67	20.06
Hybri + Jade	Dairyland Seed (Channel Bio)	3.06	2.26	1.91	1.15	1.32	9.69	20.04
DKA50-18	Dekalb	3.03	2.34	2.25	1.28	1.42	10.31	19.97
FSG 4295N	Allied Seed	3.25	2.23	1.91	1.14	1.36	9.89	19.75
WL 363HQ	W-L Research	3.29	2.14	2.02	1.26	1.13	9.83	19.68
6305Q	Forage Genetics	2.99	2.40	2.10	1.34	1.34	10.16	19.61
Rebound 6.0	Croplan	3.18	2.31	2.07	1.30	1.44	10.30	19.59
6431	Forage Genetics	3.31	2.16	1.81	1.21	1.09	9.57	19.26
DKA43-13	Dekalb	2.81	2.09	1.94	1.25	1.18	9.25	18.39
Average		3.13	2.31	2.03	1.27	1.29	10.03	19.81
CV (%)		9.6	11.2	12.3	12.5	20.7	8.9	
LSD (0.05)		0.43	0.37	0.36	0.23	0.38	1.29	

¹Plots were seeded August 20, 2010 at 20 lb. per acre.

²Table is arranged by decreasing 2-yr total yield.

³Yields were calculated on an air-dry basis.

Site Information:

Elevation: 4178 feet

Soil: Rocky Ford Silty Clay Loam

Precipitation: 4.14 inches from April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012

Last Spring Frost: April 5, 2012 (30 °F)

First Fall Frost: October 8, 2012 (24 °F)

Fertilizer: 150 lb/acre of 11-52-0 on March 12, 2012

Herbicide: None applied

Insecticide: Chlorpyrifos 4E AG 24 oz/acre and Silencer 3.84 oz/ac on
April 26, 2012 to control alfalfa weevil

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