

Alfalfa Report

12-2-04

Cold damage: A killing frost for alfalfa foliage is generally believed to occur at 25 to 26 F. The damage that occurs depends on cold hardening. The first stage of cold hardening occurs at temperatures from 36 to 41 F and the second at 28 to 32 F. If minimum temperatures before the frost were above 41 F, then frost damage could occur at higher temperatures than 25 to 26 F. If a large percentage of the terminal growth is killed by frost, then cutting may be required to stimulate new growth.

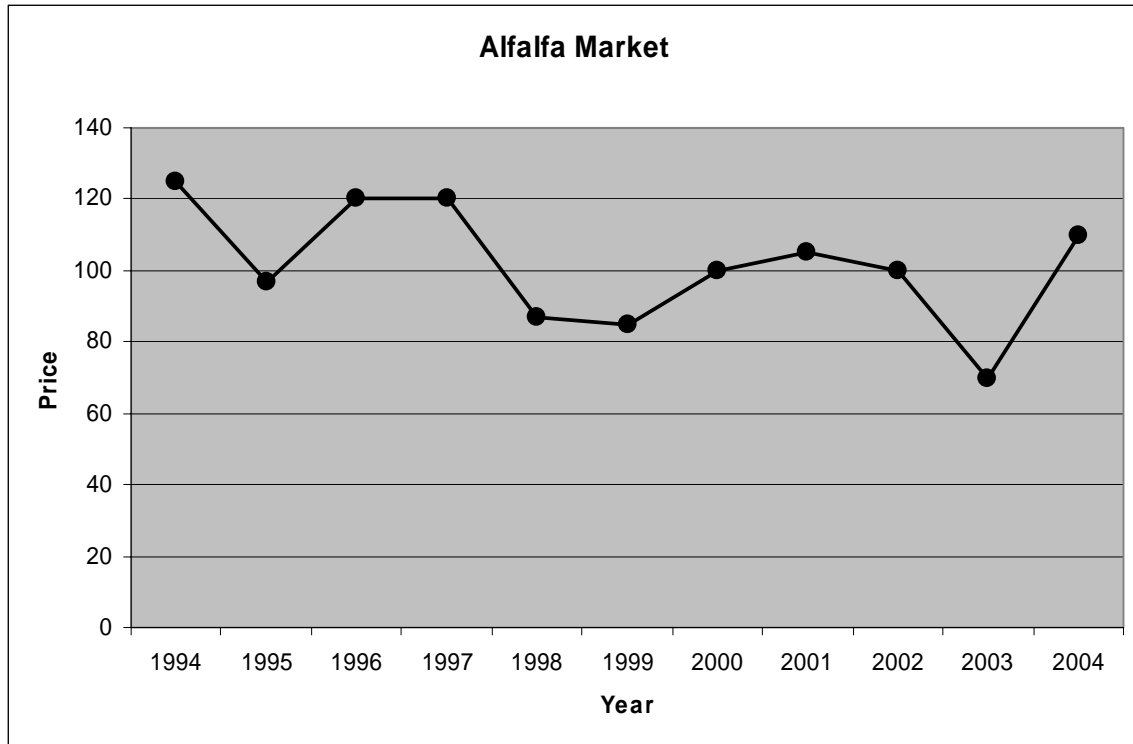
Insect Management: Spotted alfalfa aphid (SAA) caused severe damage to alfalfa in Arizona and California in the 1950's. Control was achieved through a combination of introduced parasites and host plant resistance. SAA still occasionally causes. A number of seedling alfalfa fields needed to be treated for SAA during the fall of 2002. There is every reason to believe that the highly resistant cultivars along with the indigenous and introduced natural enemies will continue to keep the SAA in check most of the time. SAA develops better under warm temperatures than pea aphid or blue alfalfa aphid.

Weed Control: Sheep grazing has a variable effect on weeds. If they are lightly grazed early in the season they can and often do, recover. More severe grazing later in the season will often reduce them enough that they are no longer a problem.

<u>Market Summary</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Offgrade</u>
Past 2 weeks	120	90	110	80-90
Last year	80	55	70	50-55

10 Year Summary

2004 – 110
2003 – 70
2002 – 100
2001 – 105
2000 – 100
1999 – 85
1998 – 87
1997 – 120
1996 – 120
1995 – 97
1994 – 125



Information provided by:

Barry Tickles, btickles@ag.arizona.edu Extension Agent, Yuma County

Michael Ottman, mottman@ag.arizona.edu Agronomy Specialist

College of Agriculture, The University of Arizona.

Eric Natwick, etnatwick@ucdavis.edu UCCE Imperial County - Farm Advisor

University of California, Davis, CA.