

Alfalfa Report

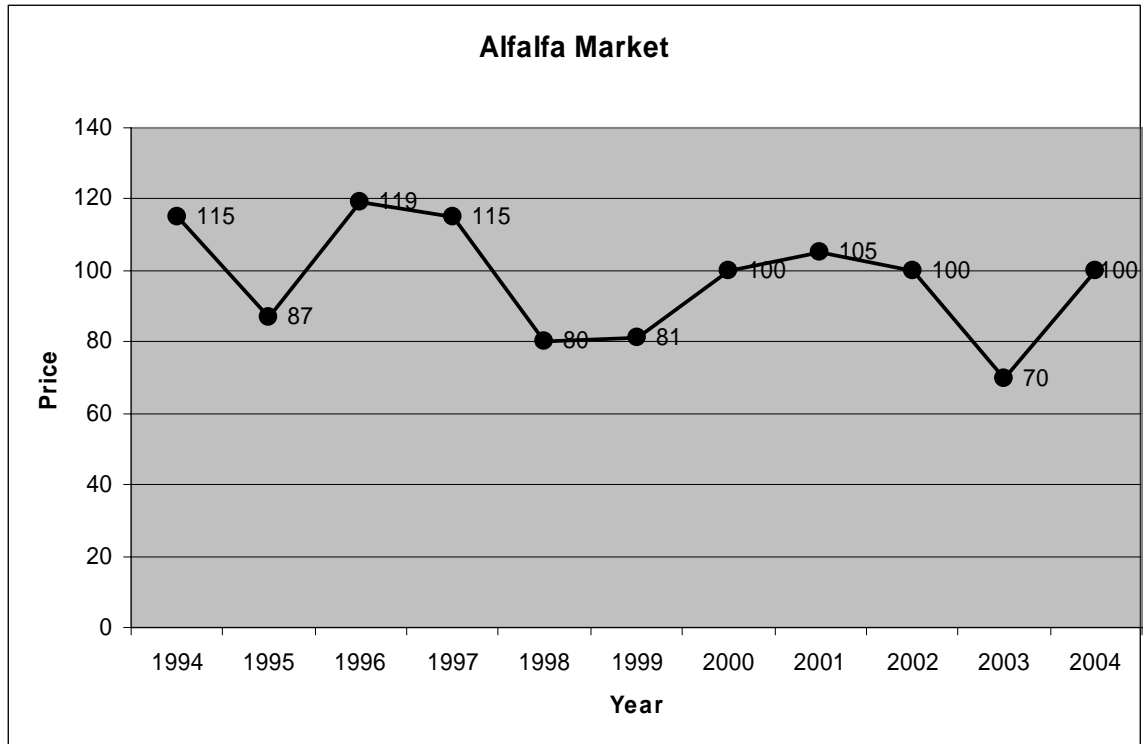
11-16-04

Starter Fertilizer: Nitrogen is often recommended at planting time as a starter fertilizer for alfalfa. Nitrogen fertilizer may stimulate growth of alfalfa seedlings. However, nitrogen may also stimulate growth of weeds and will delay nodulation until the nitrogen level in the soil is decreased. The amount of nitrogen applied as a starter fertilizer should be in the range of 25 to 50 pounds of N per acre and rates above 50 pounds of N per acre and considered excessive

Insect Management: Egyptian alfalfa weevil adults left alfalfa fields late last spring to find places to spend the summer under tree bark, under litter in wind breaks, in buildings, etc. Adult weevils spend the summer and most of the fall in a resting state called aestivation. When night-time temperatures drop into the low 40's, adult weevils will emerge from their aestivation sites, fly to alfalfa fields, feed, and mate. Females chew holes in the stems of alfalfa plants and lay eggs. Adult females insert 10 to 30 smooth, shiny, yellowish eggs into the centers of living and dead stems 3 to 6 inches above the soil surface or into stems in debris on the ground. A single female may deposit from 400 to a 1,000 eggs during a single season. Eggs usually hatch in 5 to 10 days and larval development takes about a month. The adult weevils do not cause economic damage, but this is an indicator of the levels of larval populations which will be present from January through March

Weed Control: Weeds are opportunistic and will appear in bare spots or where the alfalfa stand is weak and noncompetitive. For this reason, it is sometimes beneficial to renovate old stands and reseed bare spots.

<u>Market Summary</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Offgrade</u>
Past 2 weeks	105	95	100	80-90
Last year	80	55	70	50-55



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