

Alfalfa Report

8-11-05

Insect Management: *Empoasoa* spp. leafhopper occasionally cause economic damage in low desert alfalfa. These tiny yellowish-green insects cause a characteristic wedge-shaped yellow area on the outer end of leaflets. The leafhoppers inject salivary toxins that cause the yellowing and stunting. The yellowing can spread over the entire plant, giving the field a yellowish appearance. Adult leafhoppers migrate to alfalfa from vegetable fields and weeds. If damaging infestations are not controlled, toxin levels in the crown may persist to stunt and yellow subsequent cuttings. The treatment threshold is 5 to 10 leafhoppers per sweep. Treatments should be applied if counts reach 5 leafhoppers per sweep if alfalfa is 2 or more weeks away from harvest. Alfalfa scheduled to be harvested in 10 days to 2 weeks should be treated if counts reach 10 per sweep. Treat only the field edges where high leafhopper counts of a treatable magnitude are confined to the first 50 to 100 feet of the field margin.

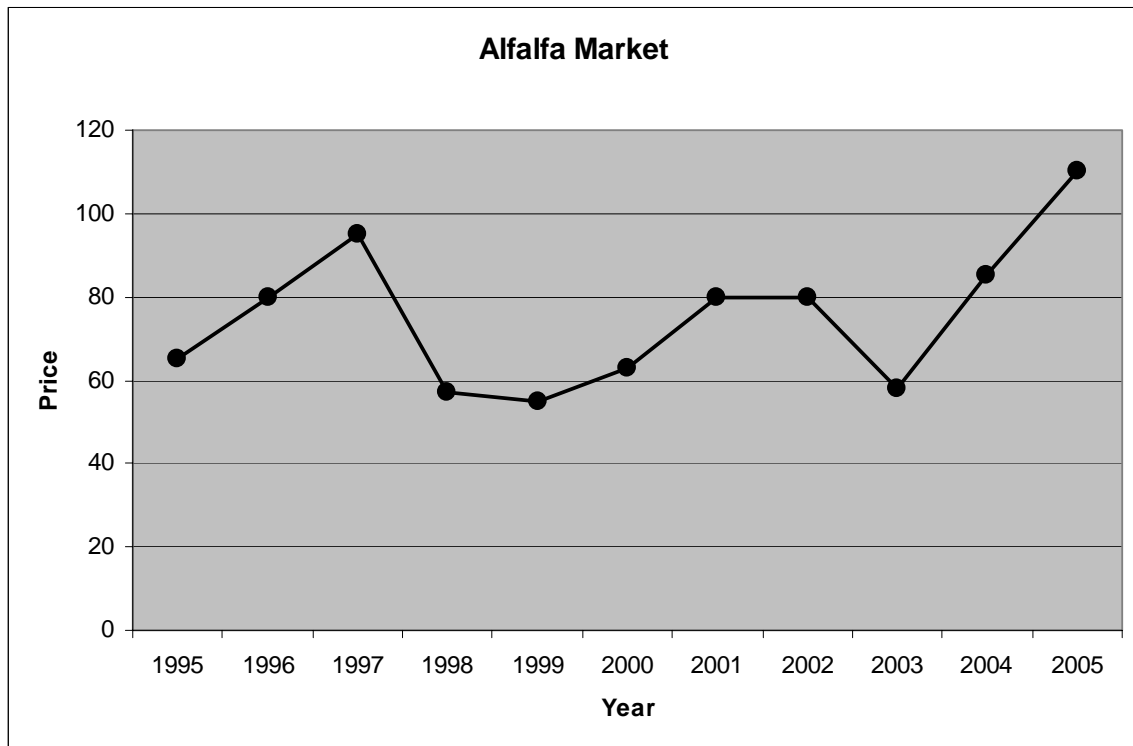
Weed Control: Red sprangletop has become increasingly widespread along the entire Colorado River. This is probably the result of mild winters which have allowed it to survive and the use of herbicides which have controlled many other grasses but not sprangletop. Trifluralin is ineffective on established plants and Poast and Select are weak in controlling this weed.

Forage quality: Forage quality is commonly measured by crude protein (CP), acid detergent fiber (ADF), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF). Protein, ADF, and NDF can be measured by “wet chemistry” or near infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS). Relative feed value (RFV), total digestible nutrients (TDN), and other estimates or forage quality are calculated from ADF and/or NDF. The ultimate determinant of forage quality is animal performance.

<u>Market Summary</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Offgrade</u>
Past 2 weeks	120	100	110	90-100
Last year	90	80	85	40-50

10 Year Summary

2005 - 110
2004 - 85
2003 - 58
2002 - 80
2001 - 80
2000 - 63
1999 - 55
1998 - 57
1997 - 95
1996 - 80
1995 - 65



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