

Alfalfa Report

8-24-05

Insect Management: Webworms (alfalfa webworm, beet webworm and garden webworm) are occasional pests of desert alfalfa. The larvae of these small moths are slender, usually greenish yellow, striped or spotted caterpillars which may reach an inch in length. Webworm larvae devour leaves beneath silken webs on the upper parts of plants in summer and fall. They do not cause serious economic damage. Harvesting infested hay greatly reduces the numbers in the next crop cycle.

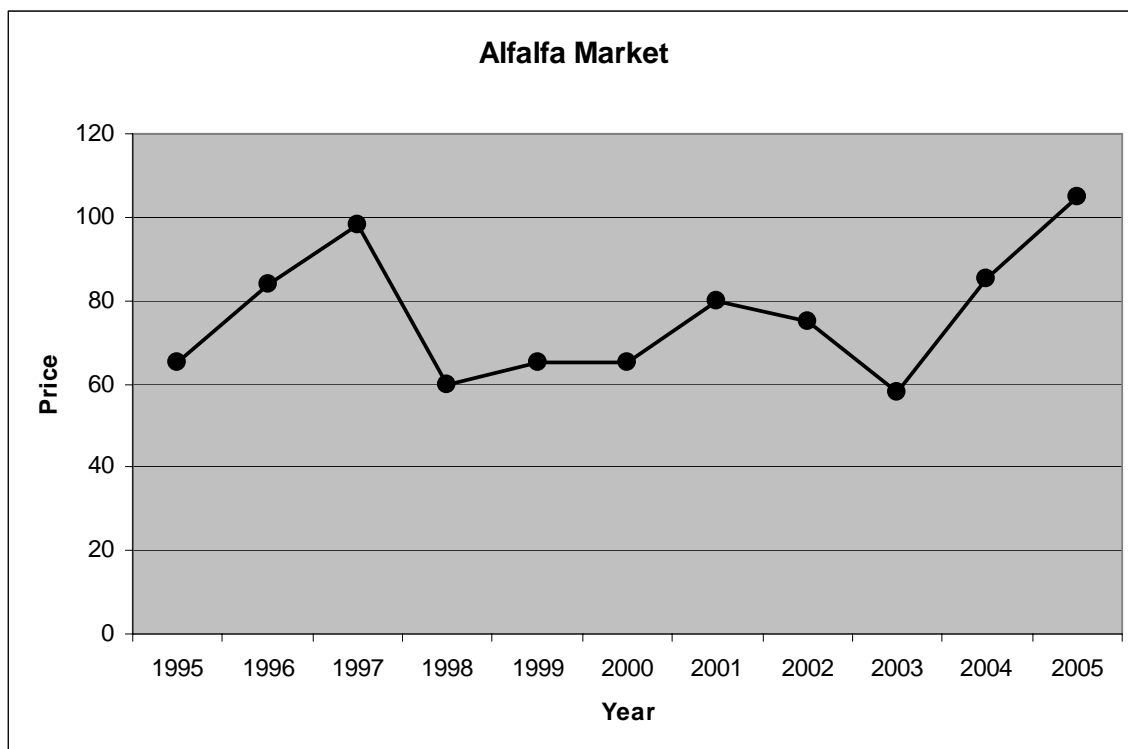
Weed Control: Balan and Eptam are the only preplant herbicides registered on alfalfa. Trifluralin has reduced new stands by 40 to 60 percent in our tests. Prowl is not registered on alfalfa and has also hurt new stands in our tests except where it was mechanically incorporated prior to planting.

Leaf distribution in bales: Leaves are not necessarily evenly distributed in hay bales. In small balers, leaves tend to settle to the bottom of the bale chamber producing a bale with more leaves near the bottom than the top. In some large square balers, leaves may be distributed toward the outside of the bale. Thus, it is important to consider leaf distribution in a bale when sampling for hay quality.

<u>Market Summary</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Offgrade</u>
Past 2 weeks	115	100	105	90-100
Last year	90	80	85	70-80

10 Year Summary

2005 - 105
2004 - 85
2003 - 58
2002 - 75
2001 - 80
2000 - 65
1999 - 65
1998 - 60
1997 - 98
1996 - 84
1995 - 65



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