

Alfalfa Report

1-03-05

Winter stand survival: Winter stand survival is a concern in cold winter areas, but is generally not of prime concern in Arizona. However, winter can be a stressful time for alfalfa plants in Arizona due to repeated frosts, less than optimum temperatures for vigorous growth, saturated soils from rain or excess irrigation, and the cutting or clipping of the crop without adequate regrowth of basal buds.

Insect Management: Pea aphid (PA) is a pest of alfalfa during the spring. PA first appears in December or January but may persist into early summer if the weather remains cool. Heavy infestations of PA are distributed over most of the plant. They can deposit large quantities of honeydew, fouling harvesting equipment, supporting sooty molds growth, and lowering hay quality. Re-growth may be stunted from a moderate to heavy PA population. Several species of predacious bugs and parasitic wasps attack these PA. Sample alfalfa fields by taking 5 to 6 stem samples in at least 5 locations per field weekly when aphids appear, then every 2 to 3 days as numbers approach the treatment threshold of 40 to 50 aphids per stem for plants under 10 inches, 70 to 80 per stem for plants 10 to 20 inches tall and more than 100 aphids per stem for plants over 20 inches tall.

Weed Control: According to L1080 forms summarized by the AZ Dept. of Agriculture, Almost 2/3 of the herbicides used in alfalfa are applied preemergence. By far the most used is Trifluralen followed by Eptam and Balan.

<u>Market Summary</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Offgrade</u>
Past 2 weeks	120	95	110	80-90
Last year	80	70	85	50-70

10 Year Summary

2005 - 110

2004 - 85

2003 - 103

2002 - 106

2001 - 102

2000 - 90

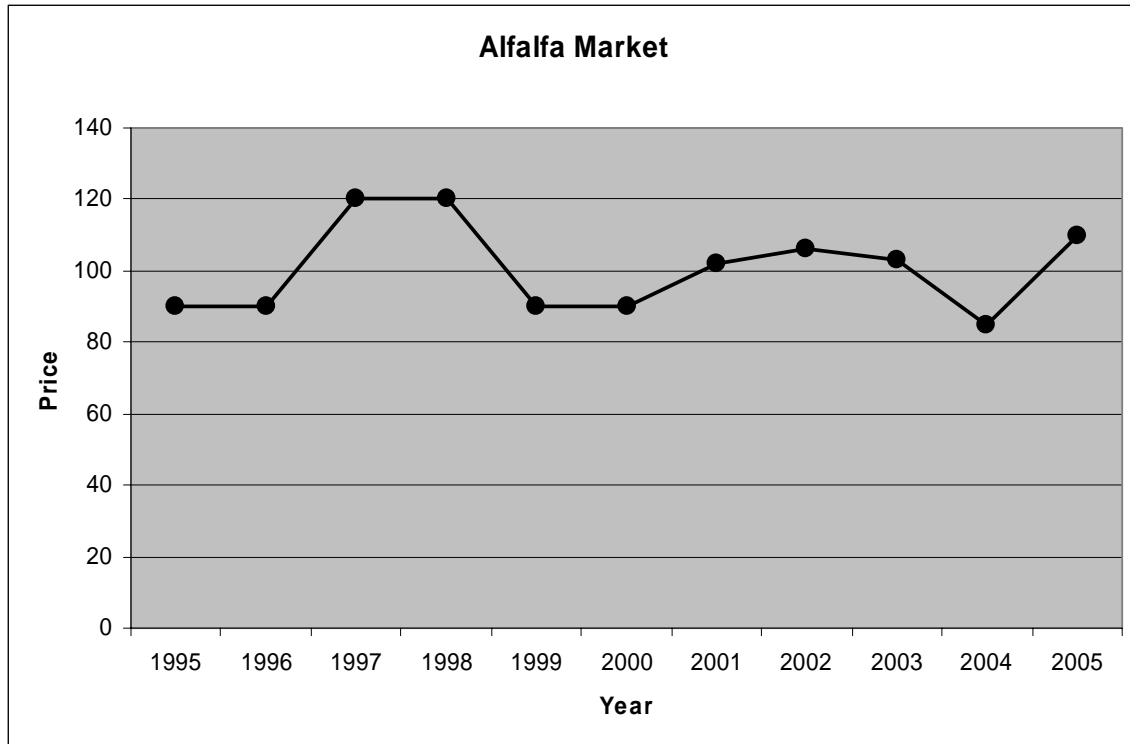
1999 - 90

1998 - 120

1997 - 120

1996 - 90

1995 - 90



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