

# Alfalfa Report

7-12-05

**Insect Management:** Alfalfa looper, *Autographa californica* (Speyer), is a minor pest of low desert alfalfa. Alfalfa looper larvae devour alfalfa leaves, but also occasionally feed on barley, cabbage, clover, grape, lettuce, peas and several weed species. Eggs are laid singly, larvae hatch within a few days, feed for about two weeks, and spin a loose white cocoon among the leaves to pupate. In about ten days to two weeks moths emerge. The entire life cycle is completed in about a month. Alfalfa loopers are rarely of economic importance in Arizona or California due to natural control. This insect is usually held in check by parasitic wasps, parasitic flies, and bacterial, fungal and viral diseases.

**Weed Control:** Season-long control of annual grasses can be expected when 20 lbs. per acre of trifluralin 10G is applied in the spring. A second application is sometimes necessary, however, where soils are not well drained or water ponds in the field. Anaerobic degradation of the herbicide occurs under these conditions. **Berseem clover:** Berseem clover (*Trifolium alexandrinum* L.) is an annual forage that has been used for many years in the Middle East, the Mediterranean region, and India and was introduced into Arizona in the early 1900's. Berseem clover should be planted in early October and about five cuttings of 1 dry ton per acre each can be obtained by May or June before the plant dies. Berseem clover is similar in quality to alfalfa. Berseem clover is best suited to green chopping or grazing since the stems do not dry easily enough for hay production and the crop is too high in moisture and low in carbohydrates for silage production. Berseem clover is tolerant of low temperatures and produces more growth in the winter and spring than alfalfa and other clovers.

<b><u>Market Summary</u></b>	<b><u>High</u></b>	<b><u>Low</u></b>	<b><u>Average</u></b>	<b><u>Offgrade</u></b>
<b>Past 2 weeks</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>90-100</b>
<b>Last year</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>60-70</b>

## 10 Year Summary

2005 - 110

2004 - 85

2003 - 60

2002 - 85

2001 - 82

2000 - 63

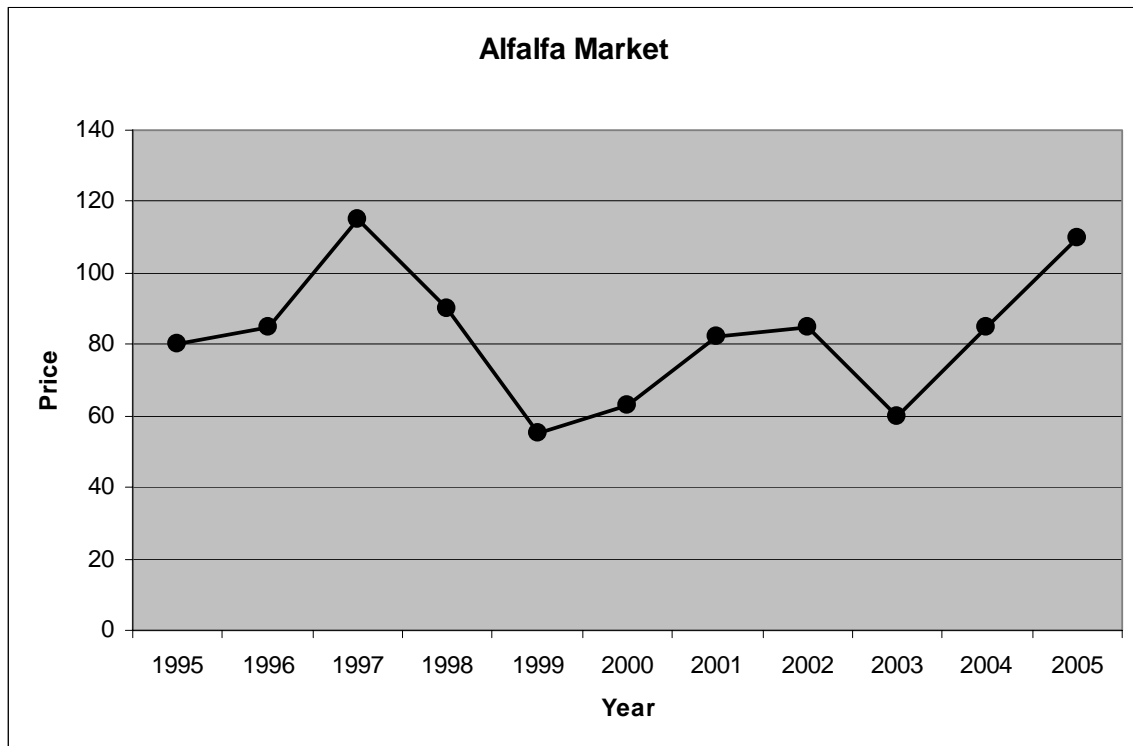
1999 - 55

1998 - 90

1997 - 115

1996 - 85

1995 - 80



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