

Alfalfa Report

3-30-05

Weed Control: Common groundsel is a poisonous weed that is spreading in La Paz County. The seed head is similar to that of sowthistle but it lacks the ray type yellow flowers. Anyone in Yuma or Mohave Counties that thinks they might have this weed in their fields should send it to the experiment station in Yuma for identification.

Insect Management: Spider mites in alfalfa may be associated with water stress and infestations may clear up a few days after an irrigation. Infestations start in the lower plant canopy moving upward and leaves are covered with webbing. Spider mites insert needle-like mouth parts into leaves removing plant sap, causing a yellow stippling on leaves. With severe feeding leaves turn brown, become dry, and drop from the plant. Feeding damage reduces yield, quality and retards regrowth. Spider Mite Species in Western Arizona and Southern California include: carmine spider mite (*T. cinnabarinus* Boisduval); desert spider mite (*T. desertorum* Banks); strawberry mite (*T. turkestanii* Ugarov & Nikolski), and twospotted spider mite (*Tetranychusurticae* Koch). Pyrethroid insecticides can flare spider mite infestations. Sulfur may be used to suppress the populations.

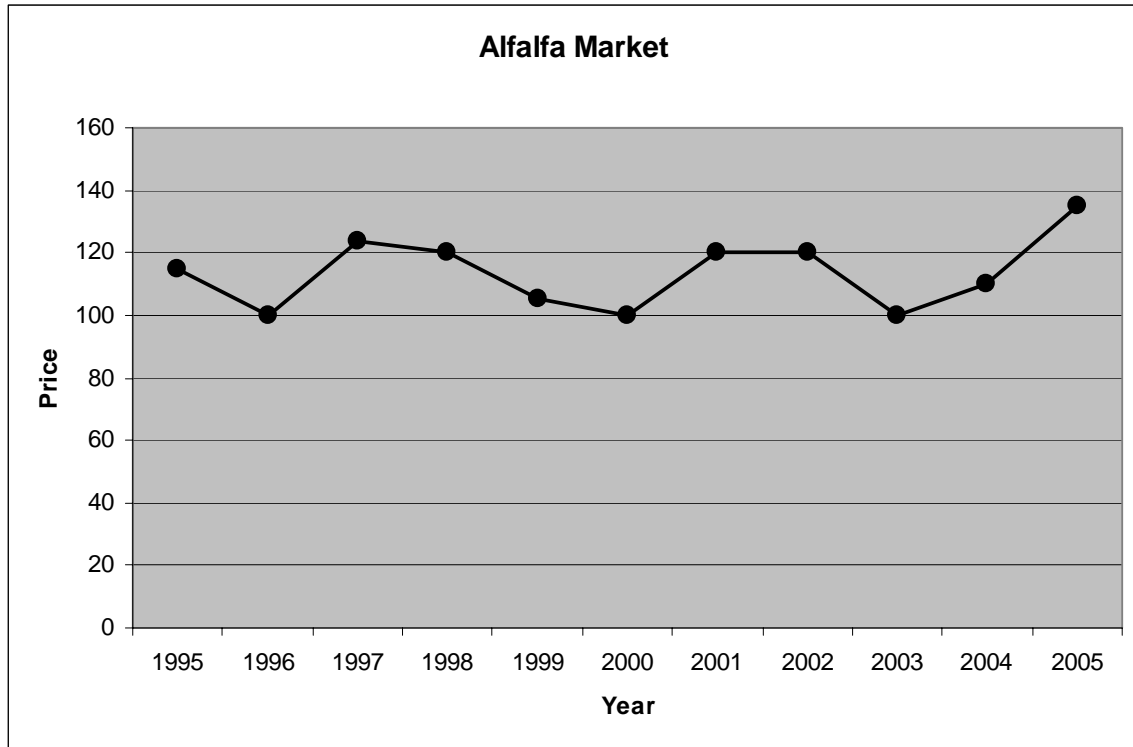
Adding Moisture to Windrows (short version): Producing high quality hay in hot, dry desert areas is a challenge due to leaf loss when raking or baling. Growers typically wait for dew to appear late at night or early in the morning. Leaf losses can range from 5 to 10% even under the best conditions, and can be as high as 20% or more if the leaves become too dry. Windrow moisture can be increased by irrigating closer to cutting or by applying moisture to the windrow. Moisture can be applied to windrows with equipment as simple as a water truck or with specially designed spraying equipment.

<u>Market Summary</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Offgrade</u>
Past 2 weeks	140	120	135	90-110
Last year	120	90	110	65-90

10 Year Summary

2005 - 135
2004 - 110
2003 - 100
2002 - 120
2001 - 120
2000 - 100

1999 – 105
1998 – 120
1997 – 124
1996 – 100
1995 – 115



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