

Alfalfa Report

9-29-05

Seeding methods: Alfalfa is usually drilled in rows with a grain drill or “broadcast” by a Brillion seeder or a grain drill followed by a ring roller. The “broadcast” methods are thought to be superior because of less competition among plants due to more equidistant spacing. However, some growers have observed that the increased competition among plants in rows results in a finer stem and higher quality hay.

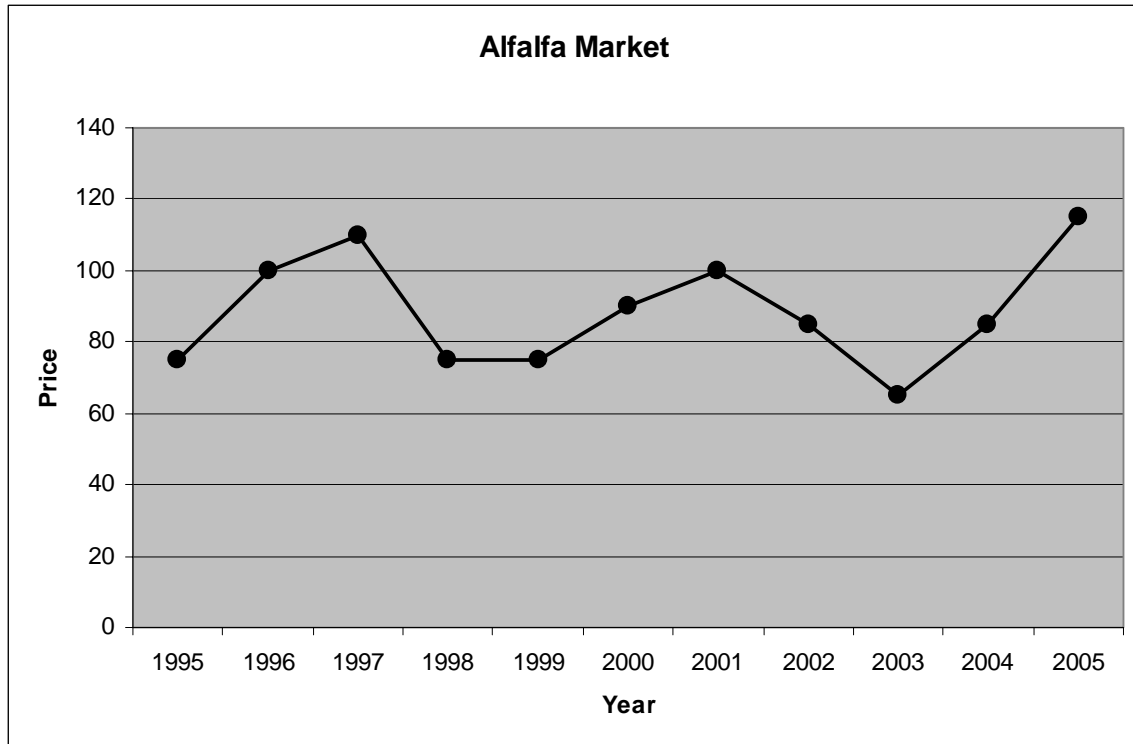
Insect Management: The bean thrips, *Caliothrips phaseoli* (Hood) can be a pest of seedling alfalfa. The thrips may require treated with dimethoate when seedling alfalfa plants are under stress. Bean thrips can cause serious injury when seedlings are stressed for water, stressed from high temperatures and/or stressed from herbicide applications.

Weed Control: Now is the time to apply preemergence herbicides for winter annual weed control in established stands. It's better to be a month early than a day late with preemergent applications.

<u>Market Summary</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Offgrade</u>
Past 2 weeks	130	105	115	90-100
Last year	90	80	85	60-75

10 Year Summary

2005 - 115
2004 - 85
2003 - 65
2002 - 85
2001 - 100
2000 - 90
1999 - 75
1998 - 75
1997 - 110
1996 - 100
1995 - 75



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