

## HOW TO SELECT AN ALFALFA VARIETY:

### Determine an appropriate fall dormancy class

Alfalfa varieties differ in fall dormancy, defined as growth during the fall. Nondormant alfalfa varieties are usually planted in mild winter areas for their ability to grow in the fall. However, fall growth of nondormant alfalfa may be undesirable in areas subject to repeated frosts or freezes. Nondormant, very nondormant, and extremely nondormant alfalfa varieties (fall dormancy class 8, 9, and 10) are adapted to elevations below 4000 feet in Arizona. Other dormancy classes not included in this publication are moderately nondormant varieties (fall dormancy class 7) which may be grown from 3000 to 5000 feet, and semi-dormant and dormant varieties (fall dormancy 6 and below) which are adapted to colder winter areas above 4000 feet.

### Identify potential pest problems

Select alfalfa varieties that have resistance to potential pest problems. Variety resistance is not available or not characterized for many important pests. However, pest resistance ratings are provided in this publication for verticillium wilt, anthracnose, phytophthora root rot, various aphids, and stem and root knot nematode. Verticillium wilt has been detected in Arizona hay shipments to China, but has not been positively identified in the field. Anthracnose occurs in the lower Colorado River area during hot, humid weather. Phytophthora root rot can be a problem on poorly drained soils during cool weather. Aphids occur in most production areas. Stem nematode has been reported in Maricopa, Pinal, Graham, and Yuma Counties. Root knot nematode has been identified in the lower Colorado River area, but usually is not important. Some diseases common to other alfalfa production areas such as bacterial and fusarium wilt are not known to occur in Arizona.

### Decide on importance of salt tolerance and Roundup Ready

Alfalfa varieties are available that have salt tolerance or are Roundup Ready. Ratings are provided in this publication.

### Determine the importance of yield and stand

Many of the varieties listed in this publication have been tested for yield and final stand by the University of Arizona in small plot trials. A summary of these trials is provided on the facing page. Most of these trials were conducted at Maricopa or Tucson.

### Field-test several promising varieties

Plant several promising varieties in narrow strips or small areas of a few acres and evaluate performance under your own conditions.

### Choose a variety (or two) for large-scale planting

Plant new varieties on no more than 25% of the newly seeded acreage. Planting inexpensive seed of a poorly-adapted variety costs in the long-run. A difference in seed cost of \$1.00 per pound is easily recovered by a more productive variety in the first year. Non-certified seed is also undesirable due to poor seed quality, introduction of weeds, and the possibility of planting an incorrectly identified variety with undesirable characteristics.



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## Nondormant Alfalfa Varieties for Arizona 2015



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**Pest resistance ratings<sup>1</sup>, yield, and final stand for nondormant alfalfa varieties in Arizona (2015).**

Variety	Marketing Contact	Pest resistance ratings <sup>2</sup>								Multifoliolate expression <sup>3</sup>	Salt Tolerance <sup>4</sup>	Technology <sup>5</sup>	Yield % of Avg <sup>6</sup>	Final Stand % of Avg
		Verticillium wilt	Anthrax-nose	Phytophthora root rot	Spotted alfalfa aphid	Pea aphid	Blue alfalfa aphid	Stem nematode	Southern root knot nematode					
<b>Nondormant (Fall dormancy class = 8)</b>														
AmeriStand 803T	America's Alfalfa		MR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR						
AmeriStand 855T RR	America's Alfalfa		R	HR	HR			R	R		F	R	101	99
Desert Sun 8.10RR	Croplan		R	HR	HR			MR	R			R		
GrandSlam	Dyna-Gro	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		H				
Integra 8800	Wilbur-Ellis		R	HR	R	HR		HR		M				
LaJolla	Imperial Valley	LR		R	HR	R	R	MR						
Magna 801FQ	Dairyland	MR	MR	HR	HR	R	R	R	HR					
Pacifico	Eureka	MR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R						
PGI 801	Alforex Seeds	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR					
Revolution	Nexgrow Alfalfa	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR		G	R		
RRALF 8R100	Eureka		R	HR	HR			MR	R			R		
Sequoia	Nexgrow Alfalfa			R	HR	R	HR	HR	HR					
SW 8210	S & W	MR	MR	HR	HR	MR	MR	MR	R				99	77
SW 8421S	S & W			R	HR	R	R		R		F		104	106
SW 8718	S & W			MR	HR	R	R	MR	R					
WL 535HQ	W-L Research	HR		HR	HR			R	R		G			
WL 552HQ.RR	W-L Research	R	R	HR	HR	R		R			G	R		
<b>Very Nondormant (Fall dormancy class = 9)</b>														
6906N	Nexgrow Alfalfa		R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR			G			
AmeriStand 901TS	America's Alfalfa	MR	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R			G		103	98
AmeriStand 915TS RR	America's Alfalfa	MR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R			G	R		
CUF101	Public			MR	HR	HR	HR		MR				104	111
Catalina	Imperial Valley			R	HR	R	MR		HR				104	111
DG 9212	Dyna-Gro	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR		H				
Lew	Public			S	R	S	S	R					104	101
Magna 901	Dairyland		MR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R				96	97
Magna 995	Dairyland	LR	MR	HR	HR	R		HR	R				101	107
Mecca II	Alforex Seeds	LR	LR	R	HR	HR	HR	R					99	73
PGI 908-S	Alforex Seeds	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR		G/F		107	108
Pinal 9	Nexgrow Alfalfa		R	HR	HR			R				R		
RR902	Channel	R	LR	HR	HR	HR		R			G	R		
RRALF 9R100	Eureka	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR			G	R		
SALTANA	Imperial Valley			R	HR	R	HR		HR				104	110
Sun Quest	Croplan		R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR			G			
SW 9215	S & W			R	HR	R	HR		HR		F		104	114
SW 9628	S & W		LR	R	HR	R	R		HR				105	96
SW 9720	S & W			R	HR	HR	R	MR	HR		F		107	107
UC Cibola	Public			MR	HR	R	LR		R				98	105
WL 656HQ	W-L Research		R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR			G		106	103
WL 662HQ.RR	W-L Research	R	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R			G	R		
<b>Extremely Nondormant (Fall dormancy class = 10)</b>														
6015R	Nexgrow Alfalfa	MR	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR			G	R		
A-1086	Alforex Seeds	R	R	HR	HR	R	R	HR	HR		G		102	101
CW 1010	Alforex Seeds	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		G		101	97
SW 10	S & W			R	HR	HR	HR		R				100	98
WL 712	W-L Research	MR	MR	HR	HR	HR	R	R					102	94

<sup>1</sup> Pest resistance ratings from "Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy and Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties 2015 Edition", NAFA, <http://www.alfalfa.org/pdf/2015%20NAFA%20Variety%20Leaflet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Resistance classes: HR = high resistance, R = resistance, MR = moderate resistance, LR = low resistance, and S = susceptible.

<sup>3</sup> Multifoliolate leaf expression: H = high, M = moderate, L = low.

<sup>4</sup> Salt tolerance: G = germination, F = forage.

<sup>5</sup> Technology: H = hybrid, R = Roundup Ready.

<sup>6</sup> % of Avg: Variety performance as a % of the average in trials.