

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 late fall, winter, and early spring. However, cool season 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 anthracnose, Phytophthora root rot, various aphids, and stem and root knot nematode. 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.

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.

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 80 acres or 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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This information has been reviewed by University faculty.
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Nondormant Alfalfa Varieties for Arizona 2012



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This information has been reviewed
by university faculty.



College of Agriculture
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ARIZONA COOPERATIVE
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Pest resistance ratings¹, yield, and final stand for nondormant alfalfa varieties in Arizona (2012).

Variety	Marketing Contact	Pest resistance ratings ²							Salt tolerance ³	Technology ⁴	Yield % of CUJF	Final Stand % of CUJF	
		Anthrac-nose	Phytoph-thora root rot	Spotted alfalfa aphid	Nondormant (Fall dormancy class = 8)			Stem nematode					Southern root knot nematode
					Pea aphid	Blue alfalfa aphid	Stem nematode						
8R100	Eureka	R	HR	HR	HR	MR	MR	R	R				
13 R Supreme	America's Alfalfa	MR	HR	R	R	MR	MR	R	C		95	93	
58 R51	Pioneer	R	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	R				
AmeriStand 801S	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	HR	MR	HR	MR	HR	G		99	92	
AmeriStand 802	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
AmeriStand 803T	America's Alfalfa	MR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
AmeriStand 855TRR	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	F		105	97	
Desert Sun 8.10RR	Croplan	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	R	R				
DKA84-10RR	DeKalb	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		105	91	
Dura 843	Croplan	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	C				
GrandSlam	Crop Production	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
HybriForce-800	Dairyland	HR	R	R	MR	HR	HR	R	H				
INTEGRA 8800	Wilbur-Ellis	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
Magna 801FQ	Dairyland	MR	HR	HR	R	R	R	HR	C				
Pacifico	Eureka	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	C				
PGI 801	Producer's Choice	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
Revolution	Syngenta	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R				
Sequoia	Syngenta	R	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	C				
SW 8210	S & W	MR	HR	HR	MR	R	MR	R	C		95	68	
SW 8421S	S & W	R	HR	HR	R	R	R	R	F		108	104	
SW 8718	S & W	MR	HR	HR	R	R	MR	R	C				
WL 530HQ	W-L	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	C				
WL 535HQ	W-L	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	C				
WL 550.FRR	W-L	HR	R	R	HR	HR	R	HR	R				
59N59	Pioneer	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	C				
AmeriStand 901TS	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	HR	C				
CUF 101	Public	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	C		100	100	
Highline	Public	S	R	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	C		94		
INTEGRA 8900	Wilbur-Ellis	R	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	C				
Low	Public	S	R	S	S	S	R	R	C		103	96	
Magna 901	Dairyland	MR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R	C		95	105	
Magna 995	Dairyland	MR	HR	HR	R	R	HR	R	C		105	105	
Mecca	Producer's Choice	LR	MR	HR	HR	MR	LR	HR	C		101	98	
Mecca II	Producer's Choice	LR	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	C		95	69	
Mecca III	Producer's Choice	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R	C		105	108	
PGI 908-S	Producer's Choice	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	G/F		111	106	
PGI 909	Producer's Choice	R	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
Pinal 9	Syngenta	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	R				
Salado	America's Alfalfa	LR	LR	R	MR	HR	MR	HR	G/F		98	92	
Sun Quest	Croplan	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
SW 9215	S & W	R	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	F		106	95	
SW 9628	S & W	LR	R	HR	R	R	R	HR	C		105	116	
SW 9720	S & W	LR	R	HR	HR	R	MR	HR	F		96	115	
UC Cibola	Public	MR	HR	HR	R	LR	R	R	C		103	103	
WL 625HQ	W-L	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	C				
WL 656HQ	W-L	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	C				
WL 660.FRR	W-L	R	HR	R	R	HR	R	HR	R		103	96	
A1086	Producer's Choice	R	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	C		104	96	
CW 1010	Producer's Choice	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	C		104	102	
Fertilac 10	Fertizona	LR	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	HR	C		102	105	
PGI 1007 BA	Producer's Choice	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	C		104	102	
Sedona	Syngenta	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	HR	C		104	85	
SW10	S & W	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	C				
UN900	Union	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	MR	C				
WL 712	W-L	MR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R	C				

¹ Pest resistance ratings from "Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy and Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties 2012 Edition", National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance, <http://www.alfalfa.org/pdf/2012%20NAFAFA%20Variety%20Leaflet.pdf>.

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

³ Salt tolerance: G = germination, F = forage.

⁴ Technology: C = conventional, H = hybrid, R = Roundup Ready.