

# Cooperative Extension

The University of Arizona ~ College of Agriculture and Life Sciences ~ Tucson, AZ 85721  
Yuma County Office 2200 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 102 Yuma, AZ 85364 (520) 726-3904  
(520) 726-8472 FAX



## Alfalfa Report Yuma County, Arizona November 20, 2000

### Production Update:

**Frost Management:** Frost-damaged alfalfa has lower quality due to leaf loss, lower digestibility, and decreased mineral content. Frost-damaged alfalfa may also accumulate toxic levels of nitrates in rare cases. Water application during freezing temperatures can raise the temperature, but waterlogging can produce negative effects. In the case of alfalfa, the best protection against frost is a healthy crop. Severe frosts can kill the tops of the alfalfa plant and new growth must occur from the base of the plant. Cutting alfalfa after a frost can stimulate this new growth near the base of the plant, but the new growth is then susceptible to subsequent frosts.

**Insect Management:** Egrets, Ibis, gulls, and redwing black birds are commonly seen in alfalfa fields. Birds are important predators of various insect pests in alfalfa including the very damaging granulate cutworm. Egrets, Ibis and gulls are often seen at the leading edge of irrigation water, eating crickets and worms forced to move or drown. Black birds eat cutworms, other worm pests, and aphids on alfalfa stems.

**Weed Control:** Perennial weeds such as nutsedge and bermudagrass and summer annuals, should be going dormant or dying now. This is a good time to take note of where they are to be prepared to start controlling them in the spring with preemergent treatments.

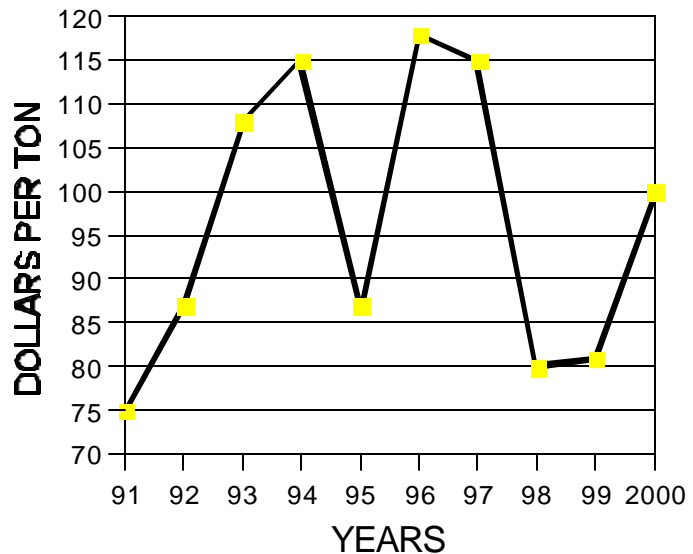
### **Market Summary:**

Past 2 Weeks (Nov. 7 to Nov. 20, 2000)  
Last Year (Nov. 7 to Nov. 20, 1999)

<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Aver.</u>	<u>Off grade</u>
105	90	100	70-90
87	70	81	60-70

### **10 Year Summary**

**(November 7 to  
November 20, 1991 - 2000)**



Barry R. Ticks  
Extension Agent, Agriculture  
Yuma County Cooperative Extension  
292c

Michael Ottman  
Extension Agronomist  
University of Arizona

Eric T. Natwick  
Farm Advisor, Entomology  
Imperial County Cooperative Extension

*Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, James A. Christenson, Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Arizona.*

*The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is an equal opportunity employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, Vietnam Era Veteran's status, or disability.*