

Alfalfa Information for West Texas

Updated February 2023

The following documents & websites contain information, including New Mexico (alfalfa is the #1 or #2 cash crop) and Oklahoma, helpful to West Texas alfalfa producers. Alfalfa publications in Texas are limited as the Texas A&M System currently has no agronomic alfalfa research.

Texas Alfalfa Production, B-5017

(1997, including information tailored to West Texas)

[Special note for the Texas High Plains: page 5 lists 10" of water required per ton of production, based on flood irrigation. 6-7" per ton is realistic for the South Plains under sprinkler irrigation, slightly lower for the Panhandle. The equation on page 5 lists maximum evapotranspiration (ET) from alfalfa at 0.35"/day. This is probably a realistic average for June-August in the Texas High Plains, although it can be far exceeded on hot windy days. See the supplement at

<https://lubbock.tamu.edu/programs/crops/other-field-crops/alfalfa/>

Managing Insect & Mite Pests of Texas Forage Crops, E-238 (2009)

(includes Texas information for pest insects and their treatment for alfalfa)

Relevant Texas alfalfa production information is maintained at the above Lubbock alfalfa webpage.

Other Regional/Relevant Resources Available on the Internet

New Mexico State Univ. has many alfalfa publications and PowerPoint presentations available at <http://forages.nmsu.edu/> including annual [NMSU alfalfa variety test reports](#) (select 'Variety Trial Reports' on the left) including data relevant for West Texas (Artesia, Tucumcari, Las Cruces).

Oklahoma State Univ. has an outstanding collection of production information, crop and insect images, etc. for all aspects of alfalfa decision making, production, and marketing. It includes the still-relevant 2001 "[Alfalfa Production Guide for the Southern Great Plains](#),"

http://www.forageandpasture.okstate.edu/forages-oklahoma/copy_of_E8262.pdf

<http://www.alfalfa.org> Website of the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance. Includes general alfalfa information, including the annual "Alfalfa Variety Ratings: Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy, and Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties" (current year) which lists almost all U.S. alfalfa varieties by fall dormancy (FD) rating along with individual variety resistance ratings to key insects and diseases, winter survival, nematode, salt tolerance, and technology traits.

<http://www.naaic.org> Website of the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference. Industry, testing, and conference information and updates.

<http://www.nmhay.com>, website of New Mexico Hay Assn., (market news, January annual meeting details, etc.). Sign up for the monthly 'Alfalfa Market News' letter by e-mailing NMSU's Mary Curtis, marcurti@nmsu.edu, to be added to the monthly e-mail distribution list.

Company websites often offer extensive production and varietal information online. Check your favorite seed company's website to see what they might have to offer.

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