

The 2007 results of Colorado State University's alfalfa variety performance test at Center are presented. Plots were planted in July 2006. Alfalfa stands are excellent and plots are mostly weed-free. This years results are the first year harvest of a three-year testing period. The field was center pivot irrigated. Summer in 2007 was warmer than normal. The first harvest was excellent; the second cutting was rained on, and the third cutting yield was disappointing.

Forage yields of 16 alfalfa varieties at Center (San Luis Valley)^{1/} in 2007.

Variety	Source	Harvest Yield			2007 Total
		6/18	7/23	9/17	
-----tons/acre ² -----					
FSG 351	Allied Seed	2.47	2.32	1.03	5.82 A ^{3/}
L 447 HD	Legacy Seeds	2.50	2.14	1.10	5.74 AB
Genoa	NK/Syngenta	2.45	2.17	1.08	5.69 ABC
Ranger	USDA-NE AES	2.48	2.06	1.11	5.65 ABC
Lariat 120	JR Simplot Co	2.47	2.20	0.98	5.64 ABC
WL 357 HQ	WL Research	2.36	2.24	1.01	5.61 ABC
Ameristand 407TQ	America's Alfalfa	2.32	2.19	1.07	5.58 ABC
Whitney	Eureka Seeds	2.44	2.07	1.05	5.56 ABC
FSG 406	Allied Seed	2.41	2.13	1.02	5.56 ABC
Medalist	Int. Farmers Assoc.	2.41	2.15	0.94	5.50 BC
FSG 408 DP	Allied Seed	2.39	2.08	0.97	5.44 C
Mountaineer 2.0	Croplan Genetics	2.27	2.13	1.03	5.44 C
Vernal	USDA-WI AES	2.32	2.10	1.01	5.43 C
54V09	Pioneer	2.37	2.15	0.90	5.42 CD
FSG 425 RR	Allied Seed	2.38	1.93	0.83	5.14 DE
WL 355 RR	WL Research	2.27	1.90	0.87	5.03 E
Average		2.39	2.12	1.00	5.52
CV (%)		5.01	4.64	10.42	4.49
LSD (0.10)		N.S.	0.12	0.12	0.29

^{1/} Trial conducted on the Richard Ramstetter Farm, Saguache County Road 44 & Road B; seeded 7/20/06 at 20 lbs/acre.

^{2/} Yields calculated on oven-dry basis.

^{3/} Tukey's Test: Yields followed by the same letter are not statistically different.

Site Information:

Elevation = 7700 ft.

Average annual precipitation = 6.92 inches.

Average frost-free days = 88days (32° F).

Average last spring frost - June 10; average first fall frost - September 6.

Soil Series: Platoro Loam / Norte gravelly sandy loam.

Contact: Merlin A. Dillon, Area Extension Agronomist
 San Luis Valley Research Center
 0249 E Road 9 North, Center, CO 81125
 Phone:719-754-3494 x12 email: merlin.dillon@colostate.edu