

Western Colorado Alfalfa Variety Performance Test at Fruita 2006

The 2006 results of Colorado State University's alfalfa variety performance test at Fruita are presented in this report. Plots were planted fall 2004 and the 2006 data are for the second year of a three-year testing period. Results for 2006 are presented in Table 1. Alfalfa stands are excellent and plots were weed-free during the growing season. The field was furrow-irrigated using gated pipe. Summer 2006 in western Colorado was very favorable for crop production and alfalfa yields were excellent.

In 2006, there were 14 days during the summer when temperatures reached 100°F. In 2005, there were 10 ten days during the summer when temperatures reached 100°F. The average growing season for Fruita is 181 days. The 2006 growing season was 184 days.

Table 1. Forage yields of 11 alfalfa varieties at Fruita in 2006.¹

Variety	Source/Brand	1 st Cut	2 nd Cut	3 rd Cut	4 th Cut	2006	2-yr
		May 25	July 13	Aug 29	Oct 4	Total ²	Total
		tons/acre ³					
Mountaineer 2.0	Croplan Genetics	3.82	3.02	2.12	1.31	10.27	19.91
WL 357 HQ	W-L Research	3.73	3.08	2.12	1.29	10.22	19.60
Garst 6530	Garst	3.84	2.99	2.14	1.19	10.16	19.38
4542	Forage Genetics Intl	3.60	3.08	2.13	1.28	10.10	19.74
FSG 351	Allied Seed, L.L.C.	3.48	3.16	2.17	1.18	10.00	19.85
CW 15030	Cal/West Seeds	3.55	2.97	2.20	1.26	9.98	19.44
FSG 408DP	Allied Seed, L.L.C.	3.42	3.09	2.15	1.19	9.85	19.11
FSG 505	Allied Seed, L.L.C.	3.62	2.90	2.08	1.22	9.81	19.42
Bullseye	Target Seed	3.57	2.75	2.25	1.23	9.80	18.58
CW 13014	Cal/West Seeds	3.46	2.83	2.08	1.23	9.60	19.17
FSG 406	Allied Seed, L.L.C.	3.54	2.84	1.97	1.16	9.50	18.90
Average		3.60	2.97	2.13	1.23	9.94	19.37
CV%		8.29	5.99	4.33	6.16	3.94	3.48
LSD _(0.05)		NS	0.26	0.13	NS	NS	NS

¹Trial conducted on the Western Colorado Research Center; seeded 8/26/04 at 15 lbs/acre.

²Table is arranged by decreasing 2006 total yield.

³Yields were calculated on an air-dry basis.

Last spring frost – April 21, 2006; first fall frost – October 22, 2006. Frost-free days for 2006 - 184 days (28°F base). Fertilizer: 276 lbs P₂O₅/acre and 108 lbs N/acre broadcast as 18-46-0 on August 16, 2004 and plowed down prior to planting. Applied Pursuit DG at 1.44 oz/acre plus Select at 10 oz/acre (added 1 qt. of UAN plus 1 qt. crop oil concentrate in 100 gallons of water) using 22 gals water/acre at 25 psi for weed control on 3 Mar 2006.

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