

Western Colorado Alfalfa Variety Performance Test at Fruita 2008

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Summary

The 2008 results of Colorado State University's alfalfa variety performance test at Fruita are presented below in Table 1. Plots were planted fall 2007 and the data for 2008 are for the first year of a three-year testing period. Alfalfa stands are excellent and plots were weed-free for the first cutting. The field is furrow-irrigated using gated pipe.

Table 1. Forage yields of 16 alfalfa varieties at the Western Colorado Research Center at Fruita in 2008.¹

Variety	Source/Brand	1 st Cut May 21	2 nd Cut June 30	3 rd Cut	4 th Cut	2008 Total
				tons/acre ³		
AmeriStand 407TQ	America's Alfalfa	2.37	1.83			
AmeriStand 444NT	America's Alfalfa	2.47	2.01			
Archer III	America's Alfalfa	2.26	1.84			
EXP6452	Garst Seed	2.58	1.70			
FSG 5285F	Allied Seed	2.44	1.70			
Garst 6552	Garst Seed	2.51	1.97			
Garst 6415	Garst Seed	2.40	1.72			
Lariat	JR Simplot Co	2.20	1.76			
Masterpiece	JR Simplot Co	2.55	1.99			
Medalist	Intermountain Farmers Assoc.	2.43	1.93			
Mountaineer 2.0	Croplan Genetics	2.69	1.88			
PGI 424	Producer's Choice	2.42	1.88			
TS4002	Target Seed	2.40	1.68			
TS4028	Target Seed	2.56	1.92			
WL 343HQ	W-L Research	2.40	1.78			
WL 363HQ	W-L Research	2.37	1.96			
Ave.		2.44	1.85			
CV (%)		7.6	9.9			
LSD (0.05)		NS	NS			

¹Seeded 20 August 2007 at 15 lbs/acre.

²Table will be arranged by decreasing 2008 total yield.

³Yields were calculated on an air-dry basis.

Last spring frost – May 2, 2008; first fall frost – TBD. Frost-free days for 2008 - TBD days (28°F base).
Fertilizer: 140 lbs P₂O₅/acre and 30 lbs N/acre broadcast as 11-52-0 on August 16, 2007. Applied Raptor at 6.0 oz/acre plus clethodium at 1 pt/acre (1 qt/acre crop oil concentrate and 1 gal. of URAN fertilizer in 100 gallons of water) using 21 gals water/acre at 30 psi for weed control on 20 Mar 2008.

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