

# Alfalfa Management Guide Pg 1

## Field Selection

- Deep, well drained soils
- Rotation interval – Autotoxicity
- Previous herbicide
- Soil pH
- Fertility

## Herbicide Carryover Restrictions

Accent® - 12 mos	Atrazine® - 18 mos	Banvel® - After Harvest
Basis Gold® - 18 mos	Buctril®/Atrazine - 18 mos	Callisto® - 18 mos
Classic® - 9 mos	Dual® II - 4 mos	DoublePlay® - 24 mos
Flexstar® - 18 mos	FirstRate® - 9 mos	Hornet® - 10.5 mos
Harness® - 24 mos	Lightning® - 9.5 mos	Raptor® - 9 mos

## Alfalfa Stand Density

- Seedling year
  - 20 to 30 plants/sq ft is ideal
- Second year and Older
  - 40 to 50 stems/sq ft is ideal
  - less than 30 stems = time to rotate
    - lose 1/10 ton of alfalfa for every stem under ideal count

## Soil pH is Critical

- Optimum pH for alfalfa is 6.5 – 7.0 or above
- Lime when buffer pH drops below 6.2
- Lime up to a year prior to planting

## Time of Seeding

### Spring Seeding



### Late Summer Seeding



## Herbicides for Alfalfa

### Preplant Options

- *Roundup*<sup>®</sup>- as a burndown to start with a clean field before planting
  - *Balan*<sup>®</sup>- Excellent grass control (Barnyardgrass, Foxtail, Downy Brome, Sandbur) and some broadleaves (Kochia, Russian Thistle, Lambsquarters) (3-4 quarts)
  - *Eptam*<sup>®</sup>- Grass control only (Foxtail, Barnyardgrass, Sandbur, Downy Brome) (2.5-3.5 pt.)
  - *Treflan*<sup>®</sup>- Grasses, Downy Brome, Kochia, Lambsquarter, Pigweed R., Thistle, Sanbur (1-1.5 pt.)
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### Seedling Options

- *Buctril*<sup>®</sup>- Good lambsquarters, Shepherdspurse and Russian Thistle control. To be used on Seedling Alfalfa only (at least 4 trifoliolate)
  - *Pursuit*<sup>®</sup>- Black nightshade, Sunflower, Penncrest, Kochia, Lambsquarter, Pigweed R., Thistle, Mustard Velvetleaf
  - *Post*<sup>®</sup> *Plus*- Grasses, Downy Brome, Sandbur (1-2 pt.)
  - *Select*<sup>®</sup>- Excellent perennial grass and quakgrass control , Downy Brome, Sandbur (6-8 fluid oz/a for annual grasses and 8-16 fluid oz/a for perennial grasses)
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### Established Options

- *Poast*<sup>®</sup>- Excellent grass control on both seedling and established
  - *Pursuit* - before regrowth reaches 3"- Most Broadleaf weeds and some grass
  - *Velpar*<sup>®</sup>- Dormant to < 2" alfalfa- Downy Brome, Pennycress, Kochia, Sheperdspurse, Dandelions and white clover (Do not use on stressed stands and in sand or poorly drained soils)
  - *Butyrac 200*- < 3" broadleaf weeds, field pennycress, common ragweed and Lambsquarters (1-3quarts)
  - *Select*- Excellent perennial grass and quakgrass control , Downy Brome, Sandbur
  - *Sencor*<sup>®</sup>/*Lexone*<sup>®</sup>- Apply on dormant alfalfa. Best control available for Dandelions. Also good on most grasses and winter annuals
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### Grazing and/or Harvest Interval

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|-----------------|---|
| • Buctril       | 30 days   |
| • Butyrac 200   | 30 days on established stands and 60 days on new stands |
| • Lexone/Sencor | 28 days   |
| • Poast         | 7 days (graze or forage)                                |
| • Pursuit       | 30 days   |
| • Select        | 15 days   |
| • Velpar        | 25 days   |



## Pest Management

### Insects

- *Alfalfa Weevil*

- Reduces yield and quality of first cutting. Treat if 30% of tips show feeding damage. Cut to control damage if threshold is reached with in 10 days of harvest.

- *Insecticides for Alfalfa Weevil control*

- Ambush®, Baythroid®, Furadan® 4F, Lorsban®, Mustang®, Pounce®, Warrior®

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- *Potato Leafhopper*

- Damages second and third cuttings. Symptom is a yellow inverted V on leaf tip
- Scout using a sweep net- Threshold based on Alfalfa size and leafhopper count.
  - 3" alfalfa = 0.2 leafhoppers per sweep
  - 6" alfalfa = 0.5 leafhoppers per sweep
  - 8-10 " alfalfa = 1.0 leafhoppers per sweep

- *Insecticides for Potato Leafhopper control*

- Ambush, Asana® XL, Baythroid, Furadan 4F, Malathion® 5EC, Mustang, Pounce, Sevin®, Warrior

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- *Grasshopper*

- *Insecticides for Grasshopper control*

- Baythroid 2, Capture®2EC, Dimate/Dimethoate, Ethyl Parathion, Lorsban 4E, Malathion 5EC, Sevin XLR Plus, Warrior

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### Insecticides Grazing and Harvest intervals

• Ambush	14 days
• Asana XL	7 days
• Baythroid	7 days
• Furadan 4F	14 days
• Lorsban	7-14 days
• Malathion	0 days
• Mustang	3 days
• Pounce	14 days
• Sevin	7 days
• Warrior	1-7 days

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515-238-4572



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