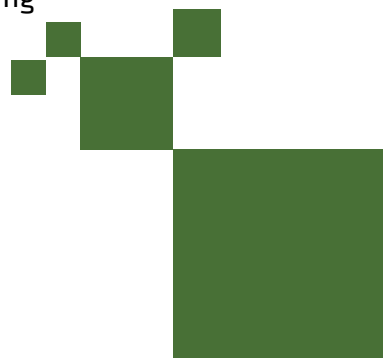


TOP 10 FOR 10 TON ALFALFA



By WINFIELD

1. **Variety Selection** – Select the best alfalfa genetics to match the ideal variety to each field and your management practices
 - Fall Dormancy (FD) and Winterhardness (WH) - higher FD number mean higher yield potential; lower WH number mean more cold tolerance and stand persistent
 - Disease and pest resistance - important for stand survival, recovery after cutting, and good forage quality
 - Yield and quality
 - Intended use: hay, haylage, or grazing
2. **Coated Seed** – Coating helps improve stand establishment and can increase seed efficiency
 - First 30-60 days after seeding are the most critical time
 - GroZone® plus Advanced Coating® ZN 34% (CV) includes:
 - Nitrogen-fixing rhizobium bacteria
 - ApronXL® Fungicide – protect seedlings from several pathogens
 - WinField™ Ascend® PGR, growth stimulant to jumpstart each seed
 - Micronutrient package- Zinc (Zn) and Manganese (Mn)
3. **Stand Establishment** – Improve alfalfa stand establishment
 - Seedbed preparation – pack soil, apply seed, and pack soil again
 - Depth of seeding – firm seed bed helps achieve ideal planting depth of 3/8"
 - When to plant – Spring: plant seed shallower vs. Fall: plant seed deeper
 - Equipment – air flow, drills, or Brillion type seeder. Make sure seed is covered, but not buried
 - Seeding rate – do not change seeding rate for coated vs. non-coated seed, 20 lbs. / ac. in Midwest
 - Coated seed – GroZone® plus Advanced Coating® ZN 34% (CV)
4. **Reading the Stand** – Evaluating alfalfa stands and rotating them regularly will help increase total production
 - New Seeding - Plant Density > 15 plants / sq. ft. in fall of seeding year or > 6 plants / sq. ft. during 2nd production year is non-yield limiting
 - Established Alfalfa - Stem Density greater than 55 stems / sq. ft. is non-yield limiting
 - Root score of 0-2 is a healthy stand for high production
 - Nitrogen credit of stand rotation can range between 90 and 140 lbs. N per acre



5. **Insect Control** – Identify and control insects to maintain plant health and quality
 - Alfalfa weevil– 30-40% of plants show any feeding - 1st crop concern and 2nd crop regrowth
 - Potato Leafhopper– 1 adult in 10 sweeps in new seeding alfalfa, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th crop regrowth. June, July, and August concern
 - Alfalfa (tarnished) plant bugs – shriveled leaves
 - Aphids – spotted, blue, pea, cowpea aphid
 - Additive effect of insects and environmental issues (too wet, too dry)
6. **Weed Control** – Genuity® Roudup Ready® Alfalfa (GENRR)
 - Spring seed GENRR without cover crop – non HEL soils. Spray weeds at 3-4” tall for fast stand establishment
 - Spring seed GENRR with oats as cover crop – harvest oatlage at boot stage and spray out weeds/oat regrowth
 - GENRR established stands – control weeds when immature, forage yield and quality can be greatly reduced
 - Conventional with/without cover crop – same recommendation as GENRR but use conventional chemistry at labeled rate and growth stage
 - Summer/early fall seed GENRR alfalfa – winter annual weeds can be easily controlled in fall with RR system
7. **NutriSolutions® Tool and Soil Test** – manage macro and micro nutrients for optimum production
 - Plant tissue test to verify need of micronutrients and secondary nutrients
 - Verify need of Winfield™ MAX-IN® Boron, Sulfur, and Ultra ZMB®
 - Apply WinField™ Ascend® PGR, promotes plant growth
 - Soil test – to take inventory of the soil
 - pH 6.8 – 7.2 (lime alfalfa ground one-two years before seeding)
 - Potassium (Potash or K soil test) = 300 lbs or 150 ppm
 - Phosphorous (P soil test) = 50 lbs or 25 ppm
8. **Minimize wheel traffic and soil compaction** – compacted soil can reduce yields
 - Use lightest equipment – reduce wheel loads; 30-50% expected yield loss in tracks
 - Minimize trips across field – use wider equipment; 80-90% of most fields covered by tracks
9. **Optimize cutting management** – harvest alfalfa for highest yield and quality potential
 - Use PEAQ stick to estimate harvest timing. Cut at 24 -26” to provide 170-180 RFQ
 - Cut every 28-34 days during summer growth
 - 4 + 1 cuts per year (fall cut – when you expect less than 500 heat units)
10. **Harvest and Storage management** – Minimize leaf loss from field to storage; minimize loss from storage to feedout
 - Leaves = 400+ RFQ; Stems = < 100 RFQ
 - Mechanically condition the stems, especially for dry hay, not required for haylage; Stems 60-70 RFV at flower and decline with maturity
 - Use wide windrows; get to 50% moisture as fast as possible
 - Use a forage inoculant for silage and a mold inhibitor (preservative) for dry baled hay