

# HOW TO SELECT AN ALFALFA VARIETY:

## Determine an appropriate fall dormancy class

Alfalfa varieties differ in fall dormancy defined as growth during the fall. Nondormant alfalfa varieties are usually planted in mild winter areas for their ability to grow in the late fall, winter, and early spring. However, cool season growth of nondormant alfalfa may be undesirable in areas subject to repeated frosts or freezes. Nondormant, very nondormant, and extremely nondormant alfalfa varieties (fall dormancy class 8, 9, and 10) are adapted to elevations below 4000 feet in Arizona. Other dormancy classes not included in this publication are moderately nondormant varieties (fall dormancy class 7) which may be grown from 3000 to 5000 feet, and semi-dormant and dormant varieties (fall dormancy 6 and below) which are adapted to colder winter areas above 4000 feet.

## Identify potential pest problems

Select alfalfa varieties that have resistance to potential pest problems. Variety resistance is not available or not characterized for many important pests. However, pest resistance ratings are provided in this publication for Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, anthracnose, Phytophthora root rot, various aphids, and stem and root knot nematode. Verticillium wilt is not currently a problem in Arizona, but it has been identified in southern California and may eventually invade Arizona. Fusarium wilt is rarely a problem due to varietal resistance. Anthracnose occurs in the lower Colorado River area during hot, humid weather. Phytophthora root rot can be a problem on poorly drained soils during cool weather. Aphids occur in most production areas. Stem nematode has been reported in Maricopa, Pinal, Graham, and Yuma Counties. Root knot nematode has been identified in the lower Colorado River area, but usually is not important.

## Identify several promising varieties

Alfalfa variety trials are conducted by universities, private industry, and farmers. A summary of University of Arizona yield trials is contained on the facing page. This information is useful to narrow your choice to several varieties.

## Field-test several promising varieties

Plant several promising varieties in narrow strips or small areas of a few acres and evaluate performance under your own conditions.

## Choose a variety (or two) for large-scale planting

Plant new varieties on no more than 80 acres or 25% of the newly seeded acreage. Planting inexpensive seed of a poorly-adapted variety costs in the long-run. A difference in seed cost of \$1.00 per pound is easily recovered by a more productive variety in the first year. Non-certified seed is also undesirable due to poor seed quality, introduction of weeds, and the possibility of planting an incorrectly identified variety with undesirable characteristics.

**Summary:** *Nondormant alfalfa varieties are adapted to mild winter areas in Arizona. An alfalfa variety should be selected based on dormancy class, potential pest problems, university yield trials, and on-farm tests. Choosing a variety based solely on seed cost rarely pays in the long run. This publication contains pest resistance ratings and a summary of University of Arizona yield trials for nondormant alfalfa varieties.*

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# Nondormant Alfalfa Varieties for Arizona 2008



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[cals.arizona.edu/pubs/crops/az1267.pdf](http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/crops/az1267.pdf)

This information has been reviewed  
by university faculty.

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**Pest resistance ratings and University of Arizona yield trial summary for nondormant alfalfa varieties (2008).**

Variety	Marketing Contact	Pest Resistance Ratings*									Yield (% of CUF 101)			Final Stand (% of CUF 101)		
		Verticillium Wilt	Fusarium Wilt	Anthracnose	Phytophthora Root Rot	Spotted Alfalfa Aphid	Pea Aphid	Blue Alfalfa Aphid	Stem Nematode	Southern Root Knot Nematode	Parker-Yuma	Maricopa-Tucson	Safford	Parker-Yuma	Maricopa-Tucson	Safford
<b>Nondormant (Fall Dormancy Class = 8)</b>																
13R Supreme	America's Alfalfa	MR	R	MR	HR	R	R	MR	MR	R	93	93	99	81	105	92
58N57	Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l, Inc.	LR	R	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	MR	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-
AmeriStand 801S	America's Alfalfa	MR	HR	R	HR	HR	MR	HR	MR	HR	-	96	103	-	92	-
AmeriStand 802	America's Alfalfa	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conquistador	J.R. Simplot Co.	R	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CutMor	Union Seed/RS Seeds	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dura 843	CROPLAN GENETICS	-	HR	-	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	MR	-	-	-	-	-	-
GrandSlam	Western Farm Service, Inc.	R	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GT 13R Plus	America's Alfalfa	R	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTEGRA 8800	Wilbur-Ellis Company	-	HR	R	HR	R	HR	-	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Magna 801FQ	Dairyland Seed Co., Inc.	MR	HR	MR	HR	HR	R	R	R	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maricopa	Producer's Choice	MR	HR	LR	R	HR	HR	R	R	HR	99	97	99	137	102	89
Mesa	Producer's Choice	-	HR	-	R	-	R	R	R	-	99	88	101	-	95	88
Moapa 69	Public	-	HR	-	-	R	-	-	-	MR	102	-	-	104	-	-
Pacifico	Eureka Seeds, Inc	MR	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pershing	Producer's Choice	LR	HR	LR	HR	HR	R	R	R	R	-	99	-	-	103	-
PGI 801	Producer's Choice	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequoia	NK Brand/Syngenta Seeds	-	HR	-	R	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-
SW 8210	S&W Seed Co.	MR	HR	MR	HR	HR	MR	R	MR	R	101	91	93	80	-	56
SW 8718	S&W Seed Co.	-	HR	-	MR	HR	R	R	MR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-
WL 530HQ	W-L Research	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WL 535HQ	W-L Research	HR	HR	-	HR	HR	-	-	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yosemite	NK Brand/Syngenta Seeds	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Very Nondormant (Fall Dormancy Class = 9)</b>																
59N49	Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l, Inc.	MR	R	R	HR	HR	HR	R	LR	HR	-	101	-	-	102	-
59N59	Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l, Inc.	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-
CG9	CROPLAN GENETICS	R	HR	MR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUF 101	Public	-	HR	-	MR	HR	HR	HR	-	MR	100	100	100	100	100	100
CW 907	Producer's Choice	MR	HR	R	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTEGRA 8900	Wilbur-Ellis Company	R	HR	R	R	HR	HR	HR	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-
Magna 901	Dairyland Seed Co., Inc.	-	HR	MR	HR	HR	HR	R	R	R	-	95	-	-	105	-
Mecca	Producer's Choice	-	HR	LR	MR	HR	HR	MR	LR	HR	99	107	101	114	113	67
Mecca II	Producer's Choice	LR	HR	LR	R	HR	HR	HR	R	-	96	92	96	-	-	69
Mecca III	Producer's Choice	-	HR	-	R	HR	HR	R	R	R	-	102	116	-	113	-
PGI 909	Producer's Choice	-	HR	R	R	R	-	HR	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salado	America's Alfalfa	S	HR	LR	LR	R	MR	HR	MR	HR	96	99	-	-	92	-
SW 9301	S&W Seed Co.	-	HR	-	MR	HR	R	R	MR	HR	101	92	92	-	-	87
SW 9500	S&W Seed Co.	-	HR	-	R	HR	HR	R	-	HR	-	102	-	-	105	-
SW 9628	S&W Seed Co.	-	R	LR	R	HR	R	R	-	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-
SW 9720	S&W Seed Co.	-	R	-	R	HR	HR	R	MR	HR	-	105	-	-	116	-
SW 9215	S&W Seed Co.	-	HR	-	R	HR	R	HR	-	HR	-	103	-	-	114	-
UC Cibola	Public	-	HR	-	MR	HR	R	LR	-	R	98	100	93	149	107	85
WL 625HQ	W-L Research	-	HR	-	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	HR	-	98	-	-	102	-
<b>Extremely Nondormant (Fall Dormancy Class = 10)</b>																
A-1086	Producer's Choice	R	HR	R	HR	HR	-	R	HR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CW 1010	Producer's Choice	R	HR	R	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sedona	NK Brand/Syngenta Seeds	LR	HR	-	R	HR	HR	HR	MR	-	-	104	-	-	85	-
SW10	S&W Seed Co.	-	R	-	R	HR	HR	HR	-	R	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triple Play	Western Farm Service	MR	HR	MR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UN 900	Union Seed	LR	HR	-	R	HR	HR	HR	MR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WL 711WF	W-L Research	-	HR	-	R	R	HR	HR	R	HR	-	112	-	-	66	-

\*Pest resistance ratings from "Fall Dormancy and Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties 2007/2008 Edition", National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance, <http://www.alfalfa.org/varietyLeaflet.html>.

Resistance classes: HR = high resistance, R = resistance, MR = moderate resistance, LR = low resistance, and S = susceptible.