

UNCONTROLLABLE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Optimum conditions for alfalfa winter survival would be:

1. Cool, dry fall, with no sudden drops in temperature.
2. Snow cover of 6 inches or more, and/or temperatures not below 5-15 degrees Fahrenheit for more than two weeks.
3. No periods during the winter of longer than 5 days above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Conditions that create less than optimum chances for survival:

1. Sudden cold.
2. Wet soil.
3. Longer than 5 days above 40 degrees Fahrenheit in mid-winter.
4. Excess surface or ground moisture which leads to the formation of ice sheets.
5. Two weeks or more of temperatures below 5-15 degrees Fahrenheit with less than 6 inches of snow cover.

CONTROLLABLE FACTORS

See reverse side.

CONTROLLABLE FACTORS

Enter the score for answers which describe the actual or planned management.

1. Stand Age _____ points
 >3 years (4 points)
 2-3 years (2 points)
 <1 year (1 point)
2. Alfalfa Variety (Variety name: _____)
 - a. Winter Hardiness _____ points
 Moderately Winterhardy (3 points)
 Winterhardy (2 points)
 Very Winterhardy (1 point)
 - b. Disease Resistance _____ points
 Moderate resistance to only bacterial wilt (4 points)
 Moderate resistance to bacterial wilt plus either Phytophthora
 root rot, Fusarium wilt or Anthracnose (3 points)
 Moderate resistance to all above-mentioned diseases (1 point)Alfalfa Variety Total Score (Multiply a. and b. scores) _____ points
3. Soil exchangeable K level _____ points
 Low (<99 ppm) (4 points)
 Medium (100-149 ppm) (3 points)
 High (>150 ppm) (1 point)
4. Soil Drainage _____ points
 Poorly (3 points)
 Somewhat Poorly, Moderately Well (2 points)
 Well, Excessively Well (1 point)
5. Harvest Frequency _____ points
 Four cuts by September 1 (4 points)
 Four cuts by September 15 (5 points)
 Three cuts by September 1 + 1 cut after October 15 (2 points)
 Three cuts by September 15 (4 points)
 Three cuts by October 15 (3 points)
 Three cuts by September 1 (1 point)
 Two cuts by October 15 (1 point)
 Two cuts by September 15 (1 point)
 Two cuts by September 1 (0 points)
6. Stubble Height after a mid-September or October cut _____ points
 <6 inches (1 point)
 >6 inches (0 points)

Determine Total Score (sum points from questions 1-6): _____ points

If Score Is:

3-7 points

8-12 points

13-17 points

18 points or greater

Then Risk From Controllable Factors Is:

low

moderate

high

very high