

Alfalfa Irrigated Variety Performance Test at Rocky Ford—2015

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Summary

The 2015 results of Colorado State University's alfalfa variety test at Rocky Ford are presented in Table 1 below. This is the second year of a three-year testing period. During the 2015 growing season, five total cuttings were taken off the plots.

Table 1. Forage yields of 18 alfalfa varieties at the Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford in 2015.

Variety ^a	Source/Brand	1st Cutting 10-Jun-15	2nd Cutting 9-Jul-15	3rd Cutting 10-Aug-15	4th Cutting 15-Sep-15	5th Cutting 3-Nov-15	2015 Total Yield
tons/acre ^b							
WL 363HQ ^c	WL Research	2.47	2.39	2.08	1.49	1.10	9.53
59W205	FGI	2.43	2.35	2.11	1.44	1.15	9.48
HybriForce 2400	Dairyland	2.59	2.29	1.90	1.51	1.15	9.44
Ameristand 445NT	America's Alfalfa	2.42	2.26	1.95	1.50	1.26	9.38
48W214	FGI	2.35	2.18	2.00	1.50	1.19	9.23
HybriForce 2600	Dairyland	2.51	2.22	1.98	1.45	1.07	9.22
DG 4210	CPS	2.21	2.36	2.01	1.42	1.11	9.11
Nimbus	Croplan Genetics	2.02	2.38	2.00	1.43	1.19	9.03
Gunner	Croplan Genetics	2.23	2.30	2.01	1.43	0.98	8.95
FSG 423ST	Allied	2.29	2.23	2.04	1.38	0.97	8.91
FSG 403LR	Allied	2.28	2.28	1.97	1.41	0.97	8.91
6585Q	Nexgrow	2.09	2.17	1.97	1.42	1.18	8.83
FSG 424	Allied	2.16	2.18	2.08	1.33	1.08	8.83
FSG 524	Allied	2.19	2.13	1.94	1.42	1.12	8.81
WL 363HQ	WL Research	2.30	2.19	1.82	1.40	1.03	8.75
6422Q	Nexgrow	2.04	2.21	1.89	1.38	0.99	8.49
Integra 8420	Wilbur-Ellis	2.12	2.06	1.90	1.33	1.02	8.43
6401N	Nexgrow	2.11	2.10	1.83	1.33	1.04	8.41
Average		2.27	2.24	1.97	1.42	1.09	8.98
LSD _(0.05)		0.23	0.22	NS	NS	NS	0.63

^aVarieties are ranked highest to lowest by 2015 total yield.

^bYields were calculated on a dry basis.

^cWL 363HQ was entered in the trial twice.

Site Information:

Plots were seeded August 29, 2013 at 20 lb/ac

Irrigation Type: Furrow

Elevation: 4178 ft.

Soil: Rocky Ford Silty Clay Loam

Precipitation: March 1, 2015 To November 30, 2015 = 9.43 inches

Last Spring Frost: May 11, 2015 (31.6°F)

First Fall Frost: October 28, 2015 (30.5°F)

Fertilizer: 100 lb/ac 18-46-0 applied March 13, 2014, none in 2015
Herbicide: Thunder 5 oz/acre and Volunteer 16 oz/acre applied on March 25, 2014 to control broadleaves and grasses in the plots
Insecticide: Warhawk 16 oz/acre and Lambda-Cy EC 3.84 oz/acre applied on April 20, 2015 to control alfalfa weevil

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