

Alfalfa Variety Performance Test at Rocky Ford—2011

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Summary

The 2011 results of Colorado State University's alfalfa variety test at Rocky Ford are presented in Table 1 below. This is the first year of a three-year testing period. The plots were furrow irrigated and efforts were taken to maintain a pest-free environment. During the 2011 growing season, five total cuttings were taken off the plots.

Table 1. Forage yields of 12 alfalfa varieties at the Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford in 2011.¹

Variety	Source	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Total Yield tons/acre ² 2011
		Cutting 01-Jun-11	Cutting 28-Jun-11	Cutting 27-Jul-11	Cutting 06-Sep-11	Cutting 17-Oct-11	
		----- tons/acre ³ -----					
HybriForce-2400	Dairyland Research	3.17	2.03	1.86	2.09	1.35	10.50
FSG 6395T	Allied Seed	3.18	2.09	1.87	1.99	1.36	10.49
Channel Bio	Dairyland Research	3.10	2.02	1.84	2.07	1.32	10.35
FSG 4295N	Allied Seed	2.89	1.96	1.80	1.95	1.26	9.86
WL363HQ	W-L Research	2.92	1.95	1.78	1.90	1.30	9.85
6431	Forage Genetics	2.90	1.94	1.69	1.97	1.19	9.69
6422Q	Forage Genetics	2.45	1.98	1.92	2.03	1.30	9.68
DKA50-18	Dekalb	2.55	1.98	1.92	1.98	1.12	9.66
6305Q	Forage Genetics	2.64	1.96	1.75	1.93	1.17	9.45
Archer III	America's	2.51	1.98	1.84	1.89	1.17	9.39
Rebound 6.0	Croplan	2.70	1.94	1.72	1.81	1.12	9.29
DKA43-13	Dekalb	2.59	1.79	1.65	1.80	1.31	9.14
Average		2.80	1.97	1.80	1.95	1.26	9.78
CV (%)		9.7	7.0	7.2	7.1	12.0	6.6
LSD (0.05)		0.39	0.20	0.19	0.20	0.22	0.93

¹Seeded August 20, 2010 at 20 lbs. per acre.

²Table is arranged by decreasing total yield.

³Yields were calculated on an air-dry basis.

Site Information:

Elevation: 4178 ft.

Soil: Rocky Ford Silty Clay Loam

Precipitation: April 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011 = 5.63 inches

Last Spring Frost: May 3, 2011 (27 °F)

First Fall Frost: October 13, 2011 (29 °F)

Fertilizer: 200 lbs./acre of 11-52-0 on August 18, 2010

Herbicide: Arrow 6 oz./acre and Poast 1.5 pts./acre on March 25, 2011

Insecticide: None applied

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