2006 Alfalfa Report

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Introduction

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) has historically been the highest yielding, highest quality forage legume grown in Kentucky. It forms the basis of Kentucky's cash hay enterprise and is an important component in dairy, horse, beef, and sheep diets. Choosing a good alfalfa variety is a key step in establishing a stand of alfalfa. The choice of variety can impact yield, thickness of stand, and persistence of alfalfa stands.

This report provides current yield data on alfalfa varieties included in yield trials in Kentucky, as well as guidelines for selecting alfalfa varieties. New for 2006, Table 9 shows a summary of all alfalfa varieties tested in Kentucky during the last 10 years. Go to the UK Forage Extension Web site at <www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage> to obtain electronic versions of all forage variety testing reports from Kentucky, from surrounding states, and a large number of other forage publications.

Considerations in Selecting an Alfalfa Variety

Local Adaptation and Persistence. High yields in variety tests over a range of years and locations are the best indication that a variety is locally adapted and persistent. Several varieties are adapted for use in Kentucky as determined from results in this report.

Winter-Hardiness. Each variety has a fall dormancy (FD) rating that ranges from 1 (very dormant) to 9 (nondormant). In general, varieties with lower dormancy ratings are more winter-hardy but take more warm weather in the spring to initiate growth, and they stop growing sooner in the fall. This growth habit can, but does not necessarily, reduce annual yields compared to less dormant varieties. Generally, alfalfa varieties with FD ratings of 2 to 5 will show good winter survival in Kentucky. Varieties with ratings of 6 and above are not winter-hardy under Kentucky conditions. Many Kentucky producers have found that FD 4 varieties provide the best combination of yield and winter survival.

Disease and Pest Resistance. In Kentucky, producers should use varieties that have at least a moderate resistance (MR) rating to phytophthora root rot (PRR), anthracnose (An), bacterial wilt (Bw), and fusarium wilt (Fw), as well as a resistance (R) rating to aphanomyces root rot (APH). Kentucky research indicates that aphanomyces root rot is a widespread problem in the state during stand establishment and that resistance is beneficial, particularly in soils also infested with phytophthora root rot.

Phytophthora root rot is a fungal disease associated with poorly drained soils or excessive rainfall. This disease causes yellowish- to reddish-brown areas on roots and crowns that eventually become black and rotten. The top growth of infected plants appears stunted and yellow.

Anthracnose, also caused by a fungus, attacks the stems of alfalfa, preventing water flow to the rest of the shoot and causing sudden wilting. These wilted shoots have a characteristic "shepherd's crook" appearance. Anthracnose can also cause a bluish-black crown rot. Bacterial wilt and fusarium wilt are infections of the water-conducting tissues of alfalfa roots and do not cause any noticeable root rot. These diseases prevent water flow to leaves, resulting in wilting of shoots and the eventual death of infected plants. Roots infected with bacterial wilt often have a yellowish-brown discoloration of the inner woody cylinder of the taproot. Fusarium infection can be recognized by brown-to-red streaks in the inner woody cylinder of the taproot.

Aphanomyces root rot is another fungal disease associated with poorly drained soils or excessive rainfall. Affected seedlings will be stunted but remain upright, unlike those with symptoms of damping off. In established plants, root symptoms are not as well defined as those for phytophthora root rot, but brown lesions on the taproot indicate where lateral roots were destroyed. This disease can be associated with phytophthora root rot, and together they may form a root disease complex. Aphanomyces root rot is known to affect new seedings in Kentucky, but it is still unclear how it affects established alfalfa. In years with overly cool and wet spring weather, alfalfa stands have suffered great damage due to aphanomyces when planted with varieties that are susceptible to this disease.

Although certain alfalfa varieties are reported to have some resistance to sclerotinia crown and stem rot, research at the University of Kentucky has shown that these varieties have only marginal protection when conditions are ideal for disease development. Varieties currently in development show promise for sclerotinia resistance.

Seed Quality. Buy premium-quality seed that is high in germination and purity and free from weed seed. Buy certified seed or proprietary seed of an improved variety. An improved variety is one that has performed well in independent trials, such as those that are reported in this publication or others like it. Other information on the label will include the test date, which must be within the previous nine months, the level of germination, and other crop and weed seed. Order seed well in advance of planting time to assure that it will be available when needed.

Description of the Tests

Alfalfa variety tests were established at Lexington (2002 and 2004), Princeton (2005), and Eden Shale (2003) as part of the forage variety testing program. Trials were planted in Lexington and Bowling Green in the spring of 2006 but failed due to poor establishment conditions. These were replanted in August of 2006. The soils at most locations are well suited to alfalfa because they are generally well-drained silt loam soils (Maury, Crider, and Nicholson at Lexington, Princeton, and Eden Shale, respectively).

Plots were 5 by 15 feet in a randomized complete block design with four replications. In each test, 20 pounds of seed per acre were planted into a prepared seedbed using a disk drill. Plots were harvested with a sickle-type forage plot harvester. First cuttings in the seeding year were delayed to allow the alfalfa to completely reach maturity, indicated by full bloom. Otherwise, harvests were taken when the alfalfa was in the bud-to-early flower stage. Fresh weight samples were taken at each harvest to calculate percent dry matter production. Management of all tests for establishment, fertility, pest control, and harvest management was according to Kentucky Cooperative Extension recommendations. Pests (weeds and insects) were controlled so that they would not limit yield or persistence.

Results and Discussion

Weather data for Eden Shale, Lexington, and Princeton are presented in Tables 1 through 3.

Yield data (on a dry matter basis) for all tests are reported in Tables 4 through 7. Stated yields are adjusted for percent weeds, therefore the value listed is for the crop only. Varieties are listed in order from highest to lowest total production (for the life of the test). Experimental varieties are listed separately at the bottom of the tables and are not available commercially. Yields are given by cutting for 2006 and by year for each prior year of production.

Statistical analyses were performed on all alfalfa yield data (including experimentals) to determine if the apparent differences are truly due to variety. Varieties not significantly different from the highest numerical value in a column are marked with an asterisk (*). To determine if two varieties are truly different, compare the difference between the two varieties to the Least Significant Difference (LSD) at the bottom of the column. If the difference is equal to or greater than the LSD, the varieties are truly different when grown under the conditions at a given location. The Coefficient of Variation (CV), which is a measure of the variability of the data, is included for each column of means. Low variability is desirable, and increased variability within a study results in higher CVs and larger LSDs.

Table 8 summarizes information about fall dormancy, disease resistance, and yield performance across years and locations for all the varieties currently included in the tests discussed in this report. Varieties are listed in alphabetical order with the experi-

mental varieties at the bottom. Remember that experimental varieties are not available for farm use, while commercial varieties can be purchased through dealerships. In Table 8, open blocks indicate that the variety was not in that particular test (labeled at the top of the column), while an X means that the variety was in the test, but yielded significantly less than the top-yielding variety. A single asterisk (*) means that the variety was not significantly different from the top-yielding variety based on the 5% LSD. It is best to choose a variety that has performed well over several years and locations as indicated by the asterisks.

Table 9 is a summary of yield data from 1995 to 2006 of commercial varieties that have been entered in the Kentucky trials. The data is listed as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties entered in each specific trial. In other words, the mean for each trial is 100%—varieties with percentages over 100 yielded better than average and varieties with percentages less than 100 yielded lower than average. Direct, statistical comparisons of varieties cannot be made using the summary Table 9, but these comparisons do help to identify varieties for further consideration. Varieties that have performed better than average over many years and at several locations have very stable performance, while others may have performed very well in wet years or on particular soil types. These details may influence variety choice, and the information can be found in the yearly reports. See footnote in Table 9 to determine which yearly report to refer to.

Summary

Consistent production of high yields of alfalfa is the result of good variety selection along with the implementation of good management techniques. For further information about alfalfa management, refer to these College of Agriculture publications, available at the local county Extension office:

- AGR-76 Alfalfa: The Queen of the Forage Crops
- AGR-64 Establishing Forage Crops
- AGR-90 Inoculation of Forage Legumes
- AGR-18 Grain and Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky
- AGR-1 Lime and Fertilizer Recommendations
- AGR-148 Weed Control Strategies for Alfalfa and Other Forage Legume Crops
- ENT-17 Insect Management Recommendations for Field Crops and Livestock
- PPA-10D Kentucky Plant Disease Management Guide for Forage Legumes
- AGR-137 Alfalfa Hay: Quality Makes the Difference

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Table	1. Tem	peratu	re and	rainfa	ll at Le	xingto	n, Ken	tucky,	in 200	2, 2003	3, 2004	, 2005,	and 2	006.						
		20	02			20	03			20	04			20	05			20	06	
	Ter	np.	Raiı	nfall	Ter	np.	Rair	nfall	Ter	np.	Raiı	nfall	Ter	mp.	Raiı	nfall	Tei	mp.	Rair	nfall
	°F	DEP	IN	DEP	°F	DEP	IN	DEP	°F	DEP	IN	DEP	°F	DEP	IN	DEP	°F	DEP	IN	DEP
JAN	38	+7	2.12	-0.74	26	-5	0.96	-1.90	30	-1	3.14	+0.28	37	+6	4.35	+1.49	42	+11	4.77	+1.91
FEB	38	+3	1.28	-1.93	32	-3	3.59	+0.38	36	+1	1.32	-1.89	39	+4	1.68	-1.53	36	+1	2.13	-1.08
MAR	45	+1	7.93	+3.53	47	+3	2.09	-2.31	47	+3	3.43	-0.97	41	-3	2.79	-1.61	44	0	3.05	-1.35
APR	58	+3	4.19	0.31	57	+2	3.14	-0.74	55	0	3.06	-0.82	56	+1	3.30	-0.58	59	+4	3.52	-0.36
MAY	61	-3	4.36	-0.11	63	-1	6.68	+2.21	68	+4	9.79	+5.32	61	-3	1.78	-2.69	62	-2	2.99	-1.48
JUN	74	+2	2.45	-1.21	69	-3	4.85	+1.19	72	0	3.13	-0.53	75	+3	1.33	-2.33	70	-2	1.82	-1.84
JUL	78	+2	1.10	-3.90	74	-2	2.68	-2.32	73	-3	7.65	+2.65	77	+1	3.30	-1.70	76	0	5.13	+0.13
AUG	77	+2	0.95	-2.98	75	0	5.26	+1.33	71	-4	2.91	-1.02	78	+3	3.34	-0.59	76	+1	3.23	-0.70
SEP	72	+4	4.90	1.70	65	-3	4.22	+1.02	68	0	2.61	-0.59	72	+4	0.59	-2.21	64	-4	9.27	+6.07
OCT	55	-2	5.61	3.04	56	-1	1.61	-0.96	58	+1	5.65	+3.08	58	+1	0.92	-1.65	54	-3	4.88	+2.31
NOV	43	-2	3.76	0.37	50	+5	4.63	+1.24	49	+4	6.29	+2.90	47	+2	1.54	-1.85	47	+2	1.78	-1.61
DEC	36	0	4.11	-1.13	36	0	3.26	-0.72	36	0	3.20	-0.78	32	-4	2.19	-1.79				
Total			42.73	-1.79			42.97	-1.58			52.18	+7.63			27.51	-17.04			42.57	+2.00
DEP is	departu	re from	the lon	g-term	average	2.														

2005 a	nd 200		05			20	06	,
	Ter	mp.	Raiı	nfall	Tei	mp.	Raiı	nfall
	°F	DEP	IN	DEP	°F	DEP	IN	DEP
JAN	41	+7	5.30	+1.50	46	+12	5.38	+1.58
FEB	43	+5	2.30	-2.13	38	0	2.66	-1.77
MAR	47	0	4.11	-0.83	51	+4	4.22	-0.72
APR	60	+1	4.61	-0.19	63	+4	4.02	-0.78
MAY	65	-2	1.54	-3.42	66	-1	5.42	+0.46
JUN	76	+1	3.09	-0.76	75	0	3.39	-0.46
JUL	79	+1	2.39	-1.90	79	+1	3.79	-0.50
AUG	80	+3	11.54	+7.53	80	+3	2.58	-1.43
SEP	74	+2	2.17	-1.16	67	-4	9.80	+6.47
OCT	60	+1	0.19	-2.86	57	-2	4.5	+1.45
NOV	50	+3	2.48	-2.15	49	+2	4.31	-0.32
DEC	35	-4	1.92	-3.12				
Total			42.55	-8.58			50.07	+3.98
DEP is c	departu	re from t	he long	-term av	erage.	•		

Table 3	3. Temp	erature	and ra	infall at	Eden S	hale, K	entucky	, in 200	4, 2005	5, and 2	006.	
		20	04			20	05			2	006	
	Ter	np.	Rair	nfall	Ter	np.	Raiı	nfall	Ter	np.	Raiı	nfall
	°F	DEP	IN	DEP	°F	DEP	IN	DEP	°F	DEP	IN	DEP
JAN	30	0	4.3	+1.76	35	+5	5.67	+3.13	42	+12	5.56	+3.02
FEB	36	+3	1.35	-1.4	39	+6	1.98	-0.77	35	+2	2.05	-0.70
MAR	48	+5	2.92	-1.8	40	-3	3.78	-0.94	44	+1	6.18	+1.46
APR	56	+2	4.32	+0.17	56	+2	3.65	050	59	+5	5.23	+1.08
MAY	69	+6	7.8	+3.39	61	-2	2.09	-2.32	62	-1	3.57	-0.84
JUN	72	+1	1.66	-2.11	75	+4	1.52	-1.85	69	-2	5.07	+1.30
JUL	73	-2	3.37	-1.16	78	+3	3.22	-1.21	77	+2	4.4	-0.13
AUG	71	-3	3.86	+0.13	78	+4	8.59	+4.89	77	+3	3.81	+0.08
SEP	69	+1	2.14	-1.05	71	+3	1.56	-1.63	65	-3	8.64	+5.45
OCT	58	+1	6.51	+3.52	58	+1	1.74	-1.25	54	-3	5.96	+2.97
NOV	49	+4	5.02	+1.47	47	+2	3.61	+0.06	47	+2	1.75	-1.80
DEC	34	-1	3.38	-0.05	31	-4	2.8	-0.63				
Total			46.63	+2.87			40.61	-3.15			52.22	+11.89
DEP is c	lepartur	e from th	e long-t	erm aver	age.							

Table 4. Dry matter y	ields an	d stand	persist	ence of	alfalfa v	varietie	s sown	April 12	2, 2002,	at Lexin	gton, K	entucky			
		Percen	t Stand						Yiel	d (tons/a	acre)				
	20	05	20	006	2002	2003	2004	2005			20	06			5-yr
Variety	Apr 8	Oct 28	Apr 7	Oct 17	Total	Total	Total	Total	May 16	Jun 15	Jul 18	Aug 16	Oct 5	Total	Total
Commercial Varieties	—Avail	able for	Farm (Jse											
4m76	75	79	83	81	1.25	4.75	4.67	3.45	1.24	1.00	0.39	0.72	0.51	3.86	17.97*
WL319HQ	70	78	83	83	1.19	4.33	4.02	3.62	1.13	0.98	0.43	0.60	0.40	3.55	16.71*
6420	53	74	80	74	1.32	4.34	3.52	3.41	1.11	1.09	0.44	0.64	0.45	3.74	16.33*
WL327	48	68	73	58	1.37	4.25	4.03	3.16	1.06	0.92	0.42	0.55	0.44	3.39	16.20*
GH744	48	65	73	66	1.33	4.62	3.76	3.26	0.91	0.93	0.33	0.51	0.48	3.16	16.13*
Geneva	50	65	68	58	1.06	4.47	3.68	3.15	1.11	0.87	0.44	0.59	0.51	3.52	15.88
WL338SR	55	64	65	65	1.41	4.25	3.85	2.95	0.98	0.73	0.39	0.49	0.55	3.14	15.59
Arc (certified)	43	68	68	58	1.08	4.00	3.84	3.09	0.95	0.67	0.34	0.45	0.44	2.85	14.86
DK140	48	60	60	48	1.14	4.08	3.87	2.65	0.99	0.78	0.34	0.48	0.41	3.00	14.74
54V54	43	63	63	61	1.23	4.06	3.53	2.69	0.89	0.88	0.35	0.55	0.34	3.01	14.50
Vernal	53	65	68	61	1.16	4.08	3.33	3.01	0.85	0.69	0.33	0.50	0.39	2.76	14.35
Buffalo	33	48	58	48	1.21	4.09	3.22	2.44	0.99	0.69	0.41	0.49	0.37	2.94	13.90
Saranac AR (certified)	43	58	55	43	1.25	3.83	3.18	2.74	0.80	0.57	0.30	0.44	0.36	2.48	13.49
Experimental Varietie	25														
DU 202	35	65	60	55	1.35	4.02	3.63	3.41	1.00	0.83	0.40	0.67	0.56	3.46	15.88
Mean	49.5	65.5	68.0	61.2	1.24	4.22	3.72	3.07	1.00	0.83	0.38	0.55	0.44	3.20	15.47
CV,%	24.5	16.6	15.2	21.6	14.56	8.93	11.4	17.32	16.64	20.96	26.13	23.48	22.15	17.77	9.09
LSD,0.05	17.3	15.5	14.8	18.9	0.26	0.54	0.61	0.76	0.24	0.25	0.14	0.18	0.14	0.81	2.01
*Not significantly differen	nt from t	he highe	st nume	rical value	e in the c	olumn, b	oased on	the 0.05	LSD.						

		Percen	t Stand					Yiel	d (tons/a	cre)			
	20	005	20	006	2004	2005			200	06			3-yr
Variety	Apr 8	Oct 28	Apr 7	Oct 17	Total	Total	May 16	Jun 15	Jul 18	Aug 16	Oct 5	Total	Total
Commercial Varieties	—Availa	ble for F	arm Use									,	
WL357HQ	88	96	98	94	1.78	3.37	1.15	1.43	0.61	0.80	0.56	4.55	9.69*
Genoa	88	95	95	95	1.79	2.91	1.07	1.22	0.52	0.78	0.61	4.21	8.91*
Expedition	88	88	94	93	1.70	2.83	1.19	1.30	0.57	0.72	0.43	4.20	8.73*
Summer Gold	85	94	93	94	1.47	3.08	1.03	1.12	0.48	0.78	0.60	4.02	8.57
Mountaineer 2.0	88	96	96	96	1.66	2.70	1.15	1.21	0.54	0.77	0.54	4.20	8.57
6400HT	88	93	98	95	1.70	2.76	1.12	1.19	0.53	0.68	0.49	4.01	8.46
Feast+EV	85	96	96	93	1.75	2.94	0.99	0.95	0.48	0.62	0.47	3.51	8.19
FSG408DP	83	91	91	90	1.69	2.53	0.98	0.99	0.41	0.69	0.53	3.60	7.83
AC Longview	75	89	94	91	1.24	2.25	1.10	0.82	0.35	0.54	0.44	3.24	6.74
Arc (certified)	50	75	85	80	1.08	2.08	1.15	0.82	0.47	0.64	0.44	3.53	6.69
Saranac AR (certified)	63	85	89	84	1.34	2.09	0.99	0.81	0.39	0.52	0.47	3.18	6.61
Buffalo	60	78	85	84	1.04	1.91	1.11	0.98	0.44	0.60	0.44	3.56	6.51
Experimental Varietie	es												
50T176	88	95	95	95	1.79	3.02	1.20	1.30	0.55	0.76	0.51	4.32	9.13*
VL02	83	95	96	91	1.88	2.45	1.37	1.06	0.44	0.59	0.54	4.00	8.33
41H158	63	83	95	93	1.19	2.57	0.92	1.15	0.78	0.66	0.45	3.97	7.72
Mean	78.0	89.8	93.0	91.1	1.54	3.02	1.10	1.09	0.50	0.68	0.50	3.87	8.05
CV,%	9.6	9.8	5.0	5.0	19.27	2.45	15.68	16.44	23.18	17.55	20.31	13.93	9.20
LSD,0.05	10.7	12.6	6.7	6.6	0.42	2.57	0.25	0.26	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.77	1.06

Table 6. Dry matter yields and stand persistence of alfalfa varieties sown Aug. 25, 2003, at the Eden Shale Farm near Owenton, Kentucky. **Percent Stand** Yield (tons/acre) 2005 2006 2006 2004 2005 3-yr Jul 31 **Variety** Apr 12 Oct 12 Apr 7 Oct 24 Total **Total** May 31 Jun 29 Oct 4 Total **Total Commercial Varieties—Available for Farm Use** FSG505 89 94 94 2.40 3.99 0.91 1.29 0.98 0.47 3.65 10.04* 2.72 WL357HQ 98 98 98 3.81 0.70 0.89 0.38 3.25 9.77* 93 1.29 Evermore 90 96 96 95 2.49 3.83 0.77 1.24 0.87 0.47 3.35 9.68* Reward II 94 90 100 2.48 3.79 1.27 0.78 0.34 3.26 9.53* 98 0.86 54V46 94 95 94 91 3.56 1.25 0.93 9.24* 2.32 0.83 0.36 3.37 5-star 89 89 98 98 2.18 3.60 0.80 1.29 0.99 0.31 3.39 9.16* Feast+EV 88 91 91 90 3.49 0.86 0.76 0.35 9.05* 2.43 1.16 3.13 Regal 74 93 93 89 2.29 3.42 0.85 1.13 0.81 0.49 3.29 8.99* Buffalo 78 89 91 86 2.32 3.36 0.99 1.17 0.75 0.34 3.26 8.94* Saranac AR (certified) 79 2.45 3.23 0.78 89 89 85 0.80 1.12 0.46 3.17 8.85* Mean 86.5 92.3 94.1 92.1 3.61 0.84 1.22 0.85 0.39 9.33 2.41 3.31 11.28 18.23 CV,% 6.6 7.7 5.8 7.2 7.63 27.80 16.60 27.96 16.42 9.37 LSD,0.05 8.3 10.3 0.27 0.29 0.79 8.2 10.0 0.59 0.34 0.23 0.16 1.27 *Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

	Seedling	Pe	rcent Sta	nd				Yield (to	ns/acre)			
	Vigor ¹	2005	20	006	2005			20	06			2-yr
Variety	Jun 13, 2005	Oct 6	Apr 5	Oct 30	Total	May 23	Jun 26	Jul 24	Aug 22	Oct 10	Total	Total
Commercial Varieties	s—Available fo	r Farm U	se									
Baralfa 53HR	5.0	100	99	97	2.62	2.20	1.79	1.26	0.71	0.53	6.50	9.12*
Phirst	4.8	100	99	97	2.58	2.22	1.79	1.26	0.71	0.51	6.49	9.07*
WL357HQ	5.0	100	100	99	2.69	1.92	1.71	1.28	0.69	0.54	6.14	8.83*
Dynagro Everlast	5.0	99	100	98	2.47	2.02	1.53	1.28	0.75	0.58	6.16	8.64*
6415	5.0	100	100	99	2.56	1.80	1.48	1.44	0.74	0.55	6.01	8.57*
Reward II	4.5	100	100	99	2.56	2.06	1.45	1.18	0.69	0.57	5.95	8.50*
Vernal	4.8	98	100	96	2.30	2.07	1.52	1.23	0.67	0.62	6.12	8.42*
Arc (certified)	4.8	98	100	97	2.31	2.14	1.62	1.07	0.69	0.56	6.08	8.38*
Buffalo	5.0	99	100	99	2.47	1.91	1.60	1.27	0.64	0.48	5.89	8.37*
LegenDairy 5.0	5.0	100	100	99	2.62	1.72	1.50	1.29	0.68	0.48	5.67	8.29*
TripleTrust 450	4.8	100	100	100	2.52	1.76	1.45	1.33	0.70	0.52	5.76	8.28*
Saranac AR (certified)	5.0	98	100	99	2.31	2.16	1.52	1.10	0.59	0.50	5.88	8.19
Genoa	4.8	100	98	98	2.56	1.91	1.17	1.18	0.65	0.52	5.43	7.99
Expedition	4.8	100	98	96	2.44	1.66	1.47	1.10	0.63	0.48	5.34	7.79
Experimental Varieti	es											
A-4440	4.5	100	100	98	2.50	2.06	1.64	1.21	0.66	0.51	6.08	8.59*
AA108E	5	99	100	99	2.50	1.76	1.51	1.33	0.74	0.52	5.86	8.36*
Mean	4.8	99.3	99.5	97.9	2.50	1.96	1.55	1.24	0.68	0.53	5.96	8.46
CV,%	8.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	8.12	13.35	17.60	11.08	16.65	18.03	9.47	7.06
LSD,0.05	0.6	2.9	2.9	2.4	0.29	0.37	0.39	0.20	0.16	0.14	0.80	0.85

^{*}Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

¹ Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

	-		Varie	ty Cha	racteri	stics1					Lexir	gtor	1			Princ	eton	Ede	en Sh	nale
						sance ²				2002				2004		20	05		2003	3
Variety		FD4	Bw	Fw	An	PRR	APH	02	03	04	05	06	04	05	06	05	06	04	05	06
	eties—Available for Farm Us	se																		
4m76	FFR/Southern States	4.7	HR	HR	l R	HR	R	*	*	*	*	*								Т
54V46	Pioneer Hi-Bred	4	R	HR	HR	HR	R											х	*	*
54V54	Pioneer Hi-Bred	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	*	х	x	x	х								\vdash
5-Star	Croplan Genetics	5	R	HR	R	R	R			1								х	*	*
6400HT	Garst Seed Co.	<u> </u>			<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		1				*	х	*					\vdash
AC Longview	Newfield Seeds Co. Ltd		HR						1				х	X	х					\vdash
Arc (certified)	Public	4	LR	MR	HR	-	-	х	х	x	*	х	X	X	X	x	*			+
Baralfa 53HR	Barenbrug USA	<u> </u>				1			L ~							*	*			\vdash
Buffalo	Public	-	-	-	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	-	*	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	*	*	х	х	*
DK140	Monsanto	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	х	X	X	X	X							Ê	+
Dynagro Everlast		3.8	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	 ^	<u> </u>	_ ^				*	*		\vdash	+-
Evermore	FFR/Southern States	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR											*	*	*
Expedition	NK Brand/Syngenta Seeds	5	HR	HR	R	RR	R						*	х	*	*	х		-	+-
Feast+EV	Garst Seed Co.	-			- "	1111	- "						*	*	х		_^	Х	*	*
FSG 408DP	Allied Seed, L.L.C.	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R						*	х	X				$\overline{}$	\vdash
FSG 505	Allied Seed, L.L.C.	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	R							<u> </u>				Х	*	*
Garst 6415	Garst Seed Co.	4	HR	HR	R	HR	R		1							*	*	^	\vdash	+-
Garst 6420	Garst Seed Co.	4	HR	HR	11	HR	R	*	*	x	*	*							\vdash	+-
Geneva	Novartis	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	х	*	x	*	*							\vdash	+-
Genoa	NK Brand/Syngenta Seeds	4	HR	HR	HR	RR	HR	<u> </u>		 ^			*	х	*	*	х		\vdash	\vdash
GH 744	Golden Harvest	3.6	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	*	*	×	*	*		<u> </u>					\vdash	\vdash
LegenDairy 5.0	Croplan Genetics	3.0	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR			 ^						*	х		\vdash	\vdash
Mountaineer 2.0	Croplan Genetics	5	HR	HR	HR	RR	HR		-				*	х	*		^		<u> </u>	+
Phirst	UniSouth Genetics, Inc.	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		-					^		*	*		<u> </u>	+
Regal	Great Plains Research	5	HR	HR	R	HR	MR		-	-		-					-	х	*	*
Reward II	PGI Alfalfa, Inc.	4	HR	HR	R	HR	R		-	-		-				*	*	X *	*	*
Saranac AR (cert.)	Public	4			HR		- K	*									*	*		*
SummerGold	1	4	MR HR	R HR	HR	LR HR	HR	-	Х	Х	Х	Х	X *	X	X *	Х	-	- "	х	<u> </u>
	Beck's Hybrids		HR	HR	HR	HR	HR		-				- "		-	*	*		—	₩
TripleTrust 450	ABI Alfalfa, Inc	5		MR	HK -	HK -	HK -										*		\vdash	₩
Vernal	Public	2	R				- HR	*	X *	Х	*	X *				Х	^		\vdash	₩
WL319HQ	W-L Research	3	HR	HR	HR	HR		*	*	Х	*	*							<u> </u>	₩
WL327	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		*	Х		*			<u> </u>				<u> </u>	₩
WL338SR	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	_ *	*	Х	_ *	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WL357HQ	W-L Research	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Experimental Va				Lub	1.15	LID	Lub								l v					т —
41H158	FFR/Southern States	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR		-	_		_	X *	X *	*				<u> — </u>	₩
50T176	FFR/Southern States	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		-	_		_	*	*	*	*	*		<u> — </u>	ـــــ
A-4440	PGI Alfalfa, Inc.								-								*		<u> </u>	₩
AA108E	ABI Alfalfa, Inc	<u> </u>						<u> </u>	L		<u></u>	L				*	*		<u> </u>	ــــــ
DU 202	Great Plains Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	*	*	Х	*	*	L		L				<u> </u>	
VL02	Great Plains Research ristics: FD=fall dormancy, Bw	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR						*	Х	*					

Variety characteristics: FD=fall dormancy, Bw=bacterial wilt, Fw=fusarium wilt, An=anthracnose, PRR=phytophthera root rot, APH-aphanomyces root rot. Information provided by seed companies.
 Disease resistance: S=susceptible, LR=low resistance, MR=moderate resistance, R=resistance, HR=high resistance.

Disease resistance: S=susceptible, LR=low resistance, MK=moderate resistance, K=resistance, HK=nigh resistance.
 Establishment year.
 Fall dormancy: 1=Spredor 3, 2=Vernal, 3=Ranger, 4=Saranac, 5=DuPuits.
 Open boxes indicate the variety was not in the test.
 x in the box indicates the variety was in the test but yielded significantly less than the top-ranked variety in the test.
 * Not significantly different from the top-ranked variety in the test.

Table 9. Summary of	nentucky Aitalfa	rield	ırıal	5 199	5-200	o (yie	ia sno	wn as	a pe	rcent	age o	or the	mea	n or t	ne co	ınme	rcial		ties ir owlin			en	
			/arint	v Ch-	racto	ristic	c 1			1 ~	kingt	on			D.	incet	or	l	owiin Green	_		en ale	
		,				istano		95 ^{4,5}	97	97	99	00	02	04	97	99	01	96	98	03	98	03	Mean ⁶
Variety/ Proprietor		FD	Bw	Fw	An	PRR		6yr ⁷	5yr	6yr	4yr	5yr	5yr	3yr	5yr	4yr	4yr	7yr	7yr	3yr		3yr	(# trials)
Abilene +Z	America's Alf.	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	R					99				104							102(2)
	W-L Research	2	HR	HR	HR	HR	R			100					97								99(2)
	W-L Research	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR									98			105	<u> </u>	101		101(3)
	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR		101	101					100	102		101	102	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		102(2)
	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		101	101				0.5	108			101					103(4)
	Newfield Seeds ABI Alfalfa	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R			99				85		101		104					101(3)
	America's Alf.	2	MR	R	MR	R	_ n		99	99						101		104			97		98(2)
	America's Alf.	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		102			99			102	99					102		101(5)
	America's Alf.	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR										97						-
Ameriguard 302+Z	America's Alf.	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR				103												-
	America's Alf.	4	R	R	R	R	-	80	108									96					95(3)
	Public	4	LR	MR	HR	-	-	98	101	87	99	91	96	84	96	100	99	91	90	98	94		95(14)
	Barenbrug	_	R	HR	HR	HR	HR												96		99		98(2)
	Public	-	-	-	-	-	-	110		101			90	82	106			93	0.7	<u> </u>	100	96	90(4)
	FFR/Sou. St.	4	HR	R	R	HR	R	110		104					106			103	97		103		104(6)
	Great Plains	4	HR	HR	HR	HR HR	HR			100	102					101	_	_	99		96		98(3)
	Great Plains Great Plains	4 5	HR	HR HR	HR R	HK R	MR MR			99	103					101							102(2)
	ABI Alfalfa	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R			99								99		\vdash	\vdash		_
	ABI Alfalfa	_	<u>нк</u>	- HK	<u>нк</u>	<u>нк</u> –	K											104		\vdash	\vdash		
	Monsanto	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	_	111										104		\vdash	\vdash		107(2)
	Monsanto	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	106										104					107(2)
	Monsanto	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	100			105							107		\vdash	\vdash		-
	Monsanto	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	H			104	103		95			102	100		103		103		101(6)
	Monsanto	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	H			99						98			103				100(3)
	America's Alf.	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	102															-
Dynagro Everlast	United Agr. Prod.	3.8	HR	HR	HR	HR	R																
Emperor	ABI Alfalfa	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR												102		93		98(2)
Evermore	FFR/Sou. St.	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR													105		104	105(2)
Excalibur II	Allied Seeds	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	107															-
	Syngenta	5	HR	HR	R	RR	R							110									_
	Garst Seeds	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		101						101								101(2)
Feast +EV	Garst Seeds	3	HR	HR	HR	R	HR							103						101		97	100(3)
	Donely Seed	4	HR	Н	Н	Н	Н			0.0					07		101			<u> </u>			-
	Syngenta	3	R	R	R	HR	-		99	96					97			98		110	99		98(5)
	Allied Seeds Allied Seeds	4	HR	HR	HR	HR HR	HR R							98						110	\vdash		_
	Allied Seeds	4 5	HR	HR	HR	HR	R							90						106	\vdash	108	107(2)
	FFR/Sou. St.	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	S			100					98			101		100	105	100	107(2)
	Syngenta	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR			100		106	103		90	99	104	101	101		103		103(6)
	Syngenta	4	HR	HR	HR	RR	HR					100	103	112))	104		101		102		-
	Golden Harvest	3.6	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR						104										_
	PGI Alfalfa	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R												90				_
	FFR/Sou. St.	5	MR	HR	HR	R	S		100												102		101(2)
Haygrazer	Great Plains	4	HR	HR	R	R	MR		102												100		101(2)
	Dairyland	4	HR	HR	R	HR	MR										106						_
	America's Alf.	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R											104					-
	America's Alf.	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R											101		<u> </u>	<u> </u>		-
	Green Seed	4	R	R	R	R	R	88			00							96		<u> </u>	<u> </u>		92(2)
	Pioneer	3	HR	HR	HR	R	R				99	104								<u> </u>	<u> </u>		_
	Dairyland	4	HR	HR	R R	HR	HR MR			_		104 105					_	_	_				_
	Dairyland Croplan Gen.	3 5	Hr	HR HR	HR	HR RR	HR					105		108						\vdash	\vdash		_
	Cal/West	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	103						100						\vdash	\vdash		_
	MBS	3	HR	HR	R	HR	MR	103											108	\vdash	\vdash		_
	FFR/Sou. St.	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R										95						_
	MBS	4	HR	HR	R	HR	MR												95				_
	Great Plains	5	HR	HR	R	HR	MR													103		96	100(2)
Reward	PGI Alfalfa	4	HR	HR	R	HR	MR									98							-
	PGI Alfalfa	4	HR	HR	R	HR	R										99			94		102	98(3)
Rushmore	Syngenta	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	108				95			103			99					101(4)
	Public	4	MR	R	HR	LR	_	103	99	95	96	93	87	83	93		92	101	90	99	101	95	95(14)
		1	HR	HR	R	MR	S		95								Ι -	Ι -	Ι -	1 7	101		98(2)
Spredor 3	Syngenta																			-	_		
Spredor 3 Stampede	Allied Seeds	3	HR	R	R	HR	R		95												106		101(2)
Spredor 3 Stampede Stellar	Allied Seeds W-L Research	3	HR HR	R HR	HR	HR HR	LR		95										94		_		101(2)
Spredor 3 Stampede Stellar Summer Gold	Allied Seeds	3	HR	R		HR		104	95					108				103	94		_		

Table 9. continued																						
																	В	owlin	g	Ed	en	
	١ ١	Variet	y Cha	aract	eristic	s ¹			Lex	kingt	on			Pr	incet	on	(Green	2	Sh	ale	
		D	iseas	e Res	istanc	ce³	95 ^{4,5}	97	97	99	00	02	04	97	99	01	96	98	03	98	03	Mean ⁶
Variety/ Proprietor	FD	Bw	Fw	An	PRR	APH	6yr ⁷	5yr	6yr	4yr	5yr	5yr	3yr	5yr	4yr	4yr	7yr	7yr	3yr	5yr	3yr	(# trials)

TMF 4355LH	Mycogen Seeds	3	HR	R	HR	HR	R				100												
TMF 4464	Mycogen Seeds	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R									98							_
Triple Crown	FFR/Sou. St.	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR					102					100						101(2)
ValuePlus 1	Forage Genetics	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R					106											_
Vernal	Public	2	R	MR	-	-	_						93						91		96		93(3)
Wintergreen	ABI Alfalfa	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R			104					103						101		103(3)
WL 252HQ	W-L Research	2	HR	HR	HR	HR	LR											104					-
WL 319HQ	W-L Research	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR						108										-
WL 323	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	103															-
WL 324	W-L Research	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR											106					-
WL 325HQ	W-L Research	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R			103						101		99					101(3)
WL 326GZ	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR		99						97				98		99		98(4)
WL 327	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR						105			100							103(2)
WL 332SR	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR								93								-
WL 338SR	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR						101										-
WL 342	W-L Research	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR										102						-
WL 357HQ	W-L Research	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR							122						101		105	109(2)
329	Cal/West	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	94															-
4m76	FFR/Sou. St.	4.7	HR	HR	R	HR	R						116										-
5-star	Croplan Gen.	5	R	HR	R	R	R													97		98	98(2)
5246	Pioneer	2	R	R	HR	HR	R									98							-
5312	Public	3	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR					103											-
53H81	Pioneer	3	HR	HR	HR	R	HR					102											-
53Q60	Pioneer	3	HR	R	HR	HR	R									100							-
5454	Pioneer	4	R	HR	HR	HR	LR	96															-
54H69	Pioneer	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	R				99												-
54V46	Pioneer	4	R	HR	HR	HR	R															99	-
54V54	Pioneer	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR					98	94			104	105						100(4)
54V56	Pioneer																			98			-
630	Garst Seeds	3	HR	HR	MR	R	_	88															
631	Garst Seeds	4	HR	R	HR	R	HR			107					106			106					106(3)
6400HT	Garst Seeds	4	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR							106						96			-
6420	Garst Seeds	4	HR	R	HR	R	HR						106										-
645	Garst Seeds	4	HR	R	HR	HR	MR											103					-
6530	Garst Seeds	5	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR													92			_

Variety characteristics: FD=fall dormancy, Bw=bacterial wilt, Fw=fusarium wilt, An=anthracnose, PRR=phytophthera root rot, APH-aphanomyces root rot. Information provided by seed companies.

- ² The Bowling Green test is on soil infested with phytophthora and aphanomyces root rots.
- ³ Disease resistance: S=susceptible, LR=low resistance, MR=moderate resistance, R=resistance, HR=high resistance.
- 4 Year trial was established.
- 5 Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific test. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 1995 was harvested for six years, so the final yield report would be "2000 Alfalfa Report" archived in the Kentucky Forage Web site at <www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>.
- ⁶ Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.
- ⁷ Numbe<u>r of years of data.</u>



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