

Green Gold Report – June 1, 2015 – CENTRAL

With the recent samples it looks like Hay Day for the Central area of the province is June 7th.

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Brunkild				
Gnadenenthal	157	174	26	22
Minnedosa	253	243	13	29
Newton	169	199	21	20
Plum Coulee	207	212	17	26
Portage	220	243	14	27
AVERAGE	201.2	214.2	18.2	24.8

Looking at Mondays results we see that RFV is dropping at 6 pts/day. This should put the Optimum cutting date on June 7th. This is when the average for the area should reach a RFV of 170. Remember that typically we target 170 assuming that RFV will drop about 20 pts from cutting to baling. For those of you that are putting up silage you can target a cutting date when it reaches 160. Looking at GDD and predicting 350 all things being normal we should hit that target on the 9th of June.

Note how the areas to the south seem to be a little more advanced.

➡ [Access all 2015 Green Gold Reports](#)

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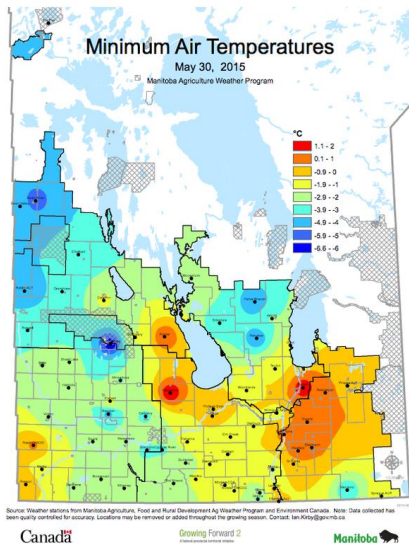


What's reported



Left is a picture of alfalfa in the early bud stage in the Gnadenthal area there were reports of a hard frost in the area both Friday and Saturday night. The plants drooped but with sunshine they were recovering.

In the other picture from the Minnedosa area the temperatures dropped to -7 C on Friday this alfalfa was so lucky. In some areas of the field the plants are wilted and fallen over, others seem not so bad.



Looking at the map of the province you can see the recorded minimum temperature recorded. You can click on the map for a better view

Rain on Alfalfa

With haying not that far away the 5mm rain recently has some thinking about waiting. There are many studies on this and they have determined that a one inch rain 24 hours after being cut can cause losses of up to 22% in dry matter. Whereas a 1.6 inch rain over several days caused a loss of 44%.

The loss is due to leaching of nutrients like the carbohydrates and plant respiration which occurs until the plant reaches 30-40% moisture and each time it gets rained on. It is interesting that the studies show that hay that is almost dry enough to be baled will lose more dry matter when rained on than hay that has just been cut.

Crude protein doesn't seem to be affected by rain but digestibility is lower due to the leaching of the carbohydrates and the ADF and NDF will increase.

Grass hay often will not experience the same degree of loss as alfalfa hay. The majority of yield loss in alfalfa hay is due to leaf loss. Grass leaves are not as easily lost. For more information on this click on [RAIN](#)