

With Hay Day here as in most years Mother Nature sends rain making putting up good quality hay difficult but not impossible

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Il de Chene	177	185	20	20
St Pierre	166	192	21	21
Grunthal	170	187	22	25
Kleefeld south	163	178	24	20
Kleefeld east	183	203	19	25
Steinbach	163	169	26	23
Giroux	151	157	29	22
NewBothwell	177	172	24	25
AVERAGE	167.57	181.57	23	22.29

Over the past 4 days we have seen the RFV of the alfalfa drop 33 pts. Crop height has averaged 1"/day which is what I would consider normal during the period from the end of May to mid June.

Unfortunately with the weather this spring we haven't seen this type of growth. Part of the reason for the growth is that over the weekend we saw average to above average accumulations of GDDs. Presently we are at 350 GDD.

With the warm weather we should expect RFV to drop at about 7-8 pts/day plus another 4-5/day once cut.

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

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What I am Seeing



On Monday I started to see flowers in some of the alfalfa fields. In others they were in the late bud stage with many of them very close to early flower. Heat and rain over the weekend has helped advance the crop with growth averaging 1 inch/day. Rainfall amounts in the East were in the 30-35mm range (thanks to the Nyhofs' for pulling me out of the mud) Timothy and orchard grass are starting to head out generally grass cut at this stage are of higher quality than grasses that go to seed.

Rain on Alfalfa

Although haying has started in the Eastern area most of the hay that went down last week was put up in good condition. Rain on Saturday, Sunday and now Tuesday may have some of you wondering about how it might affect any hay that we cut and left in the field. You can go back to the June 1st report or click on [RAIN](#)



Alfalfa Weevil



In the attached photo you can see the larva of the alfalfa weevil that is feeding on this field of alfalfa. Cool weather this spring has slowed insect development in general. Adult alfalfa weevils overwinter in debris and alfalfa stubble. Egg hatch (according to NDSU) begins at 166 GDD base 9C. I don't have that information but using base 10C hatch should have begun somewhere around the 6th or 7th of June. Most of the damage occurs by the larvae that are in the 3rd to 4th instar stage around



300 GDDs or the 3rd week of June. For alfalfa grown for hay, the most cost-efficient method is to cut the alfalfa early before feeding damage occurs

Hay in a Day- Weather Risk Trumps Timing

In past reports we have talked about sugar content but the greatest risk to hay curing and forage quality is rain damage. Weather prediction is, obviously, far from perfect in Manitoba. If the weatherman says there is no chance of rain in the 48-hour forecast, we have some reasonable amount of confidence that he'll be right more often than not. But, on that third day, and especially on those days beyond, we might as well flip a coin to judge what the weather will be. Here are a couple of links to improving your chances of putting up better quality hay and silage.

[Hay in a Day](#)

[5 Steps to High Quality Hay](#)