

This is your final report for 2015, haying continues to advance rapidly in the area

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Arborg	144	172	24	21
Oak Point	159	168	25	20
Stonewall				
Dauphin	171	172	24	22
Beausejour	163	178	24	20
AVERAGE	159.25	172.5	24.25	20.75

Fields in the West/Interlake area have grown an average of 3 inches. Fields are now in the late bud to early flowering stage. From the reports that some of you have sent me and from the MAFRD crop reports it looks like this week the alfalfa harvest is in full swing. RFV are dropping 4 pt. per day

As we wind up the Green Gold Program for 2015 I would like to thank Ricky Johnston, Darcy Mason, Allen Grenkow, Tom Dooley and Uli Messerli for allowing us to use their fields and to take samples to help provide the information that we have put into the Green Gold reports for 2015. Also special thanks to Tim Clarke and Pam Iwanchysko with MAFRD for taking samples.

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

For more information contact:
John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support
e: john@mfga.net, website: www.mfga.net or follow us on [Twitter!](#)



Financial support for this project provided by the following sponsors:

GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



MAFRD reports that the alfalfa hay crop is progressing well. Dairy operations have started cutting. Forage grasses are headed out and alfalfa is in the late bud to early flower stage. Alfalfa weevil counts are at threshold and forage seed growers are spraying. Research shows yield and quality are both highest during spring, but quality declines most rapidly during spring harvest. If you are looking for high-quality alfalfa, spring is the time to pay attention to alfalfa maturity. In early summer, yield and quality are both less than they are in the spring. At the same time, quality is declining relatively slowly, so the recommendation would be to harvest about 30-35 days after the first cutting. Although yields in late summer are much lower than they are in spring or early summer, quality declines more slowly than at any other time of year. If you wait too long in late summer to harvest alfalfa, there is a good chance you may have a lot of leaf drop right near the end of that growth period. Then quality declines very rapidly.

Common Leafspot

I am starting to see yellow and dead leaves in an alfalfa field. Normally as we start to get close to first cut you will see some of the bottom leaves yellow and die. If you are finding brown colored spots on the lower leaves likely what you have is common leaf spot.

The disease first develops on the lower leaves and as it develops it moves up the plant. Infected leaves become yellow and drop prematurely. Typically you will see this in alfalfa fields at or before the first cut and in the late fall. The disease likes moist and cooler conditions found in the spring and fall. The fungi survive on the infected and dead leaves found on the ground. It is spread by spores that are released into the air and infect young leaves. Early cutting of the alfalfa is about the best practice that we have as it helps to reduce the amount of leaf loss.



Alfalfa Weevil



High levels of alfalfa weevil have been reported in some fields of alfalfa in the Interlake region and near Dauphin. In hay crops, one of the best control strategies is to cut the alfalfa early, which will result in larvae starving or desiccating. It is safe for livestock to consume alfalfa weevil larvae in feed.

Note that the first 2 stages of alfalfa weevil are a light yellow or tan colour. They are also quite small, with the first instar larvae being about 1 mm long. The third and fourth stages of larvae are bright green with a white stripe down the centre of the back and a black head capsule. They only grow to about 8 or 9 mm long.

Sponsors Appreciation

The Green Gold Program relies on sponsor support and because of this support we were able to provide coverage for a wider area of the province. We recognize them and their support in all of the Updates that you have been receiving but what is needed is for you the end user of the information to let them how much you appreciate their involvement and support of your industry. Please be sure to thank them.

Thanks to MAFRD staff for assisting in collecting samples

