



NUTRONOMY

~ SOLUTIONS FOR SUCCESS ~

P.O. Box 229 ♦ 481 Frederick Road ♦ Roaring Spring, PA 16673 ♦ 814.793.2113 ♦ 800.346.3649 ♦ www.rennut.com



Planting Tips for Summer/Fall Alfalfa Seeding Alfalfa Following Small Grains

Many growers choose to plant alfalfa following small grain harvest. Alfalfa can be no-till seeded into the stubble, providing the field conditions are ideal. If the field has been unattended for a period of time, weed control is critical. You can clean the field up by applying Gramoxone® Max or Roundup® prior to planting. In fall seeding, it is important to start with a clean field in order to reduce weed competition for the seedling alfalfa. Pursuit® may be applied in the fall after the alfalfa is in the second trifoliate stage and before the weeds become three inches high. For low-growing weeds, such as mustard, apply Pursuit® before the rosette is three inches in diameter. Reducing weed competition gets the crop off to a better start, and may increase both stand production and stand longevity.



Manage a Companion Crop Carefully

A companion crop such as oats is often planted with alfalfa, to provide rapid soil stabilization and seedling alfalfa protection. It is important to remember that any companion crop is going to create competition [with the alfalfa] for moisture, light and soil nutrients. Should you choose to plant oats as a companion crop

in the fall, it is recommended that you plant between 15 and 30 lbs per acre. You may want to harvest the oats this fall, doing so only after a hard freeze. Make sure you cut the crop high enough to leave stubble that can hold snow as a cover over the cold winter months. Seedling alfalfa needs protection to reduce winter heaving and freeze out.

Soil pH is Important

Alfalfa will remove about 100 lbs of lime for every ton of hay harvested over the life of the stand and performs best within a pH range of 6.5 and higher. It is important to put adequate lime on a field prior to planting.



If you plan on using any manure on a field designated to be planted in alfalfa, be sure to spread the manure prior to planting. Manure can be hard on newly established alfalfa stands.

It is important to maintain the best fertility practice(s) with your alfalfa stands in order to maximize yields on your farm. The World Record yield for alfalfa is over 10 tons acre/year. How close can you get?

For additional information regarding alfalfa seeding in the late summer and fall please ask about Renaissance's July issue of "THE FORAGER", which offers valuable insights and information.

This information is edited from an article by Dervin Druist, Agronomist, and courtesy of GARST Seed.

For additional information on alfalfa, grasses and other seed products, as well as research-tested preservatives and inoculants, and other agronomic information contact the Renaissance Agronomy Office at 1-800-346-3649.