



National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

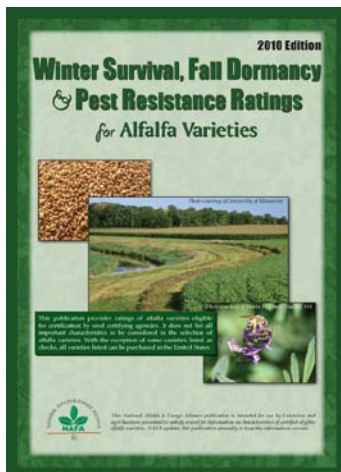
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAFA LISTING OF ALFALFA VARIETIES PROMOTES FORAGE PROFITABILITY *Alfalfa Variety Selection Simplified By NAFA*

St. Paul, MN – Attention all hay producers, extension specialists and agri-business personnel interested in alfalfa! The National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA) has teamed up with Hay & Forage Grower magazine to release its 2010 Edition of *“Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistant Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties.”*



As always, this valuable publication provides a current and comprehensive listing of winter survival, fall dormancy and pest resistance ratings of alfalfa varieties eligible for certification by seed certifying agencies. This year, however, the leaflet is offered free of charge in the November issue of Hay & Forage Grower magazine. With the exception of some varieties listed as checks, all varieties listed can be purchased in the United States.

Variety selection in the production of alfalfa is one of the most critical components of raising a productive crop. As Forage Extension Agronomist Dan Putnam put it, “Don’t look at the price of the seed, look at performance.” Putnam added, “We have seen hundreds of dollars per acre benefit from improved varieties with increased yields in our trials, while the added cost of improved seed is minimal.”

“The ratings data published by NAFA are critical in predicting performance. This includes the Fall Dormancy rating, winter survival, insect, disease and nematode resistance ratings, which are all important factors to consider when choosing a variety.” Putnam advises producers to select a group of varieties from among the top performers, and then consider price and service. “University trials provide an unbiased first look at the yield performance of these lines, and the NAFA variety list

provides you with their characteristics. Together, this results in good decisions, and a good return on investment later.” NAFA variety list is at www.alfalfa.org, and a listing of state-by-state yield trials may be found at <http://www.naaic.org/Resources/yields.html>.

The 2010 Edition features more than 200 alfalfa varieties from 28 marketers. The information has been verified by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and the National Alfalfa Variety Review Board (NAVRB) report.

This easy-to-use, reader-friendly publication is a must-have for anyone involved in alfalfa production. Low resolution copies are available to download free by visiting www.alfalfa.org. Hard copies are available for a nominal fee of 50¢, get your copy today!