

ABOUT THE MFGA GREEN GOLD PROGRAM



For 25 years, Green Gold has been used to help producers predict an **“OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE”** – the date when pure standing alfalfa stands are at optimum quality (170 RFV) – in their local areas.

Green Gold suggests cutting on the date with higher relative feed value (RFV) for the highest feed value for livestock. With the cool start to the 2020 growing season, some areas of Manitoba experienced a slower start to the forages.

MFGA’s Green Gold Program relies on beef and dairy producers, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development staff and Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives staff to clip and submit alfalfa samples twice weekly to Winnipeg’s Central Testing Laboratory for testing. Since sampling is in real-time, the effect of current weather conditions on quality is accurately reflected in the results. Regional reports are sent to subscribers, posted on mfga.net and distributed to Manitoba media.



2020 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 18 fields involved in the 2020 MFGA Green Gold Program including representative fields from Central, Eastern and Western Manitoba. The Interlake region did not have a representative field in this year’s program.
- Sampling started May 25 (alfalfa is at least 10 inches).
- The conditions this spring saw alfalfa growth (beginning of sampling) close to the average or normal based on the 25 year history of Green Gold. (Historic range is May 11 to June 10).
- Areas in the Eastern and to a lesser degree Central were hit hard with winterkill.
- Frost on May 29 hit the Eastern area of the province the hardest with many fields showing considerable damage to the alfalfa’s top growth and delaying the crop.
- By end of testing on June 15, fields were in the early to late flowering stage.
- By MFGA OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE, the crop height varied widely due to growing conditions - the range was 21 to 25 inches height.
- Cutting in some areas started the week of June 10 with good harvest conditions.



OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE

Through testing, the MFGA declared the Optimum Alfalfa Harvest Dates as:

CENTRAL: June 8
WESTERN: June 10
EASTERN: June 15

[VIEW ALL 2020 REPORTS](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 MFGA SUPPORTERS - *We couldn't do it without you!*

MFGA PLATINUM SUPPORTERS



MFGA GOLD SUPPORTERS



MFGA SILVER SUPPORTERS



MFGA BRONZE SUPPORTERS



MFGA PROJECT PARTNERS



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