

ABOUT THE MFGA GREEN GOLD PROGRAM



MFGA's Green Gold Program helps Manitoba alfalfa producers predict an "OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE" – the date when pure standing alfalfa stands are at optimum quality (170 RFV) for a first cut in their local areas.

The goal of our program is to encourage growers to be strategic with their alfalfa hay crop harvest, making decisions based on specific feed and market needs and field observations.

By clipping alfalfa samples from subscribed MFGA Green Gold fields, the testing results can help suggest the date with higher relative feed value (RFV) for the highest feed value for livestock. With the cool and wet start to the 2022 growing season, some areas of Manitoba experienced a slower start to their alfalfa crop this year.

MFGA's Green Gold Program relies on alfalfa, dairy and beef producers, to clip and submit alfalfa samples twice weekly and on Winnipeg's Central Testing Laboratory who performs testing of the samples. Since sampling is in real-time, the effect of current weather conditions on quality is accurately reflected in the results. Regional results are sent to over 300 MFGA Green Gold subscribers including alfalfa, dairy, beef and sheep producers, and distributed to Manitoba media and industry.



2022 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 21 fields registered for the 2022 MFGA Green Gold Program including alfalfa fields from Central, Eastern, Interlake, and Western Manitoba.
- Alfalfa sampling from registered fields started on May 30 (starting height of 10 inches).
- The weather conditions this spring were cool and wet until mild heat arrived near the end of the program.
- Areas in the Western, Eastern, and Central regions were wet at the beginning but dried soon afterwards for their first initial harvest cut of the season.
- Late frost on June 1 and 2 impacted a large part of the province with numerous fields showing light damage on mid-growth level alfalfa fields. Fortunately, these fields appeared to recover quickly.
- The cool wet conditions at the outset of the growing season delayed the potential optimum cutting date by 5-7 days. By end of testing on June 15, the bulk of the fields were in the late vegetative/early bud stage.
- By MFGA Green Gold's OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE, the crop height fluctuated widely, ranging from 17 to 34 inches in height due to intense wet growing conditions in certain parts of the province.
- In some areas, there were two Optimum Harvest Dates, an earlier date for the fields located in drier areas and a later date for fields delayed by wet conditions.
- Cutting in some regions started the week of June 6 with good harvest conditions.

OPTIMUM HARVEST DATES

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

CENTRAL:	June 20
WESTERN:	June 20
EASTERN/INTERLAKE:	June 16

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MUCHOS GRASSES TO OUR 2022 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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