



## MFGA Green Gold Report – June 2, 2021 – EASTERN/INTERLAKE

Reports for Optimum Alfalfa Harvest Date cover Manitoba’s Central, Western, Eastern and Interlake areas.

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Garson	229	287	10	28
Gimli	-	-	-	-
Grunthal	245	224	18	32
Headingley	-	-	-	-
RM of West St. Paul – Stony Mountain	213	229	16	27
Stead	-	-	-	-
Winnipeg	-	-	-	-
<b>EASTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>

Early bud stage has started with the heat that has come last week. Drier areas are starting to grow more but without the moisture, the variation of growth is seen. Some sections are considering to start cutting early.

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Looking at the information above the missing crop height information for the Central area is due to the crop still being too short to sample (less than 10"). The sites with missing RFV and CP information are due to not having that information at the time this report is being sent out.

### Hay Day

The goal of Hay Day is not to try to name the day that you should harvest. Rather the goal is to encourage growers who are busy with management of other crops to be more strategic with hay crop harvest as it relates to their needs. We look at a RFV after harvest of 150; therefore we target 170 with the assumption that 15- 20 pts will be lost due to drying and harvest.

### Alfalfa Flowering

Once alfalfa starts to flower it usually indicates that it is time to cut your hay no matter what type of livestock you are feeding. Alfalfa beyond full bloom doesn't generally increase your tonnage of harvested material and as it matures it loses lower leaves rapidly decreasing its feed value. Normally fields that are cut in early June, with rains and warm weather start to initiate new growth at the crown. What you should be planning for is that in 28-35 days you should be looking at taking your second cut. With haying in this area starting around the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of June you might expect second cut to start around July 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will enable you to look at 3 cuts before the critical fall period and a 4<sup>th</sup> cut sometime in late September early October.

### Should I let the alfalfa blossom at least once during the summer?

If your goal is to keep the alfalfa in rotation as long as possible, then the plants should have the opportunity to reach one-tenth blossom at least once during the growing season. This is the point when the plants reach a full level of carbohydrate reserves in the roots. Many times if the alfalfa stand has been damaged during winter and it has been slow to respond to warm weather, it is a good idea to let the plants build their root carbohydrate levels and reach one-tenth blossom at least once during the growing season. The best cutting to do this would be either second or third rather than first cutting when we have the highest yield.

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