



## MFGA Green Gold Report – June 7, 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	158	275	10	22
Gimli	-	-	-	-
Grunthal	164	188	23	23
Headingley	-	-	-	-
RM of West St. Paul – Stony Mountain	193	210	19	24
Winnipeg	-	-	-	-
<b>EASTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>

With last week’s increased heat, the RFV has dropped by 57 pts or 11.4 pts/day in 5 days. Optimum Alfalfa Harvest date would be on or around June 11. Some are currently doing their first cut.

[ACCESS ALL MFGA GREEN GOLD REPORTS](#)

CONTACT: Terra Bergen, MFGA Green Gold Coordinator, e: <mailto:terra@mfga.net>, t: [@mbforages](https://twitter.com/mbforages)

**MFGA PLATINUM SPONSORS**



**MFGA SILVER SPONSORS**



**MFGA BRONZE SPONSORS**





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.

#### **Rain on Alfalfa**

There are many studies on this and they have determined that a one inch rain 24 hours after being cut can cause losses of up to 22% in dry matter. Whereas a 1.6 inch rain over several day caused a loss of 44%. The loss is due to leaching of nutrients like the carbohydrates and plant respiration which occurs until the plant reaches 30-40% moisture and each time it gets rained on. It is interesting that the studies show that hay that is almost dry enough to be baled will lose more dry matter

when rained on than hay that has just been cut. Crude protein doesn't seem to be affected by rain but digestibility is lower due to the leaching of the carbohydrates and the ADF and NEF will increase. Grass hay often will not experience the same degree of loss as alfalfa.

#### **Hay in a Day**

The drying rate of hay crops is influenced the most by sunlight reaching the forages, which in turn increases the swath temperature and reduces humidity. A full width swath increases the drying surface of the swath by 2.8 times. In many trials, it has been shown that moisture reductions from 85% to 60% can be reached in as little as 5 to 7 hours, hence the term "Haylage in a Day". The bottom line is that the forage produced with minimal respiration results in higher nutrient content of the forage.

#### **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.

#### **Producer Support Always Welcome**

If you are finding the information in MFGA's Green Gold reports useful why not consider becoming a member and help support the association so that we can continue to provide information like this. Help us continue to make an impact. **Starting at just \$50 per year for individual support**, you can be part of our association. **Please visit [mfga.net](http://mfga.net) and join us.**

Don't forget to visit our corporate [MFGA Supporters](#)