



MFGA Green Gold Report – June 9, 2021 – WESTERN

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

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Bellevue	-	-	-	-
Forrest-Brookdale Station	-	-	-	-
Forrest	-	-	-	-
Grandview	-	-	-	-
Oak River	170	193	22	23
Miniota	-	-	-	-
Reston	-	-	-	-
Roseland	-	-	-	-
Souris	187	216	18	27
WESTERN AVERAGE	178	204	20	25

The rain that arrived on Wednesday has helped, with the heat, with the height of the stands. The RFV has dropped by 10 pts or 5 pts/day in 2 days. The optimum harvest date would be considered on June 9.

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The sites with missing RFV and CP information are due to not having that information at the time this report is being sent out.

Rained-on Hay. We needed rain to help this year's crop in the SE; unfortunately we didn't need it when it's harvest time. On the positive side it will definitely help the 2nd cut. Rained-on hay causes many problems. It lowers the hay's feed value and, if baled or stacked too wet, can cause mold or heat damage. Sometimes a bigger problem, though, is the long-term damage to regrowing plants. Driving over the field repeatedly, trying to turn hay to hasten drying will injure regrowth and can cause soil compaction, especially if the ground is wet and soft. But, not driving on the field may result in an even bigger problem with the windrows. If they lay there too long, the plants underneath will be

smothered. This not only lowers yield, it creates a terrible weed problem as grasses and broadleaves infest the killed strips. These weeds will contaminate all future cuttings. In addition, if rained-on hay windrows are left in the field until next cutting, they frequently will plug the mower, slow harvest, and provide lesser quality hay. The best option is to remove wet hay any way you can. Bale it, chop it, and even blow it back on the ground as mulch. You may need to damage plants by driving on them to turn hay to speed drying and get sunlight to plants underneath. This may contribute to a short-term loss of young plants, but will prevent wet windrows from ruining the rest of your haying year. While there's no immediate payback to managing severely rained-on hay, ignoring it will be even more costly in the long run.

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