

MFGA Green Gold Report – June 13, 2022 – CENTRAL

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

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Bagot	140	188	23	31
Bruxelles	141	158	30	29
Glenella	-	-	-	-
Horndean	143	174	26	29
MacGregor	142	162	29	31
Manitou	-	-	-	-
Treherne	155	-	-	31
St. Claude	150	200	22	31
CENTRAL AVERAGE	145	176	26	30

The RFV has dropped 56 points over the past 5 days. There have been reports of the alfalfa weevil being spotted in the fields. The optimum cutting date is June 20.

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Scout for Alfalfa Weevils

There have been reports from producers on finding alfalfa weevils in their fields. Although damage presently is minor, significant defoliation is possible, which impacts yield, quality and the health of the stand. Damage is typically seen in the first crop of alfalfa.

Early Bud Stage

Here is a shot of alfalfa in the early bud stage. For the Green Gold program and PEAQ, the early bud is considered as 1 to 2 nodes having visible buds. Buds may be hidden by leaves. To check for the presence of buds, pinch the stem tip with your fingers. Presence of a small, hard “ball” means that a bud is present.



What is Hay Day?

Hay Day is the estimated day that alfalfa will reach a Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 170. Past experience has shown that approximately 20 points are lost during the haying process and the time taken to get the entire crop cut, cured and baled. Silage shortens this process and therefore the quality can be higher. Grass/alfalfa mixes can and do reduce the RFV by 20-30 points depending on the % of the blend. Nutritionists like to target hay in the 135-150 RFV towards Dairy cows in the 1st trimester and towards dairy calves. The hay at 125-140 RFV is fed to the dairy cows in the last 200 days and heifers 12-18 months of age. Hay at 115-130 RFV makes excellent feed for beef cows and for heifers 12-18 months old while hay at 100-115 RFV is good for the dry cows and heifers between 18 and 24 months.

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