



## MFGA Green Gold Report – May 24, 2023 – EASTERN REGION

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

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Beausejour	-	-	-	-
Blumnort	226	268	12	28
Grunthal	259	237	16	34
Kleefeld	-	-	-	-
Landmark	226	-	-	27
Whitemouth	246	230	17	30
<b>EASTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>

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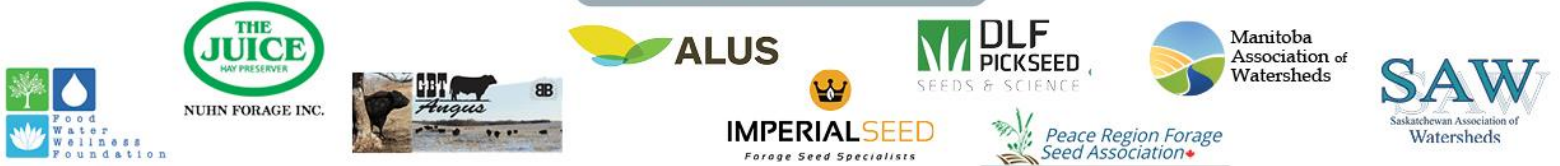
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### **What we are seeing:**

- Some areas of eastern Manitoba had moisture to boost the production of the alfalfa plants.
- Plants are currently in the late vegetative state with early buds starting to form.
- No insect activity on the plants.

### **Alfalfa Quality**

When alfalfa is subjected to drought conditions, the feed quality often increases. This is because plants respond by decreasing the stem number and their elongation, inadvertently increasing the leaf to stem ratio. This results in an increase in forage quality (higher crude protein and digestibility, especially ADF). Additionally, photosynthetic activity continues during the

early phase of drought, allowing nutrients to accumulate while growth slows. It should be noted, that although quality is increasing, dry conditions also reduce nodule formation and nitrogen fixation, therefore extended dry conditions will eventually reduce plant metabolism.

### **Early Bud Stage**

The [MFGA Green Gold Program](#) uses Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) protocol for measuring alfalfa. The PEAQ considers the early bud stage to have 1 to 2 nodes and having visible buds. These buds may be hidden by leaves so it's important to check for the presence of buds by pinching the stem tip with your fingers. Presence of a small, hard "ball" means that a bud is present.

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