



## MFGA Green Gold Report – May 26, 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	243	14	28
Grunthal	257	216	18	33
Kleefeld	-	-	-	-
Landmark	211	216	18	26
Whitemouth	238	216	18	30
<b>EASTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>

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

- The RFV PEAQ has dropped 20 points in 2 days.
- Plants have increased their height by 2 inches.
- The eastern section is in the early bud stage.
- There has been no reported insect activity on the plants.

### **Maturity**

Maturity of the forage is one of the most important factors when considering forage quality. Plants continuously change in quality as they mature. As the plant reaches full maturity, crude protein and digestibility will decrease, reducing the overall quality of the forage. If forages reach full maturity, additional yield will be gained, but higher amounts of forage will have to be fed to meet the same quality. Knowing when to harvest will help producers improve forage quality and digestibility and therefore improve profitability. The ideal stage for harvesting would be the late boot stage for grasses and small grains, late bud for alfalfa, and late boot and soft dough for wheat.

### **Best stage to cut my grass or legume hay?**

The best stage partly depends on the nutritional needs of the animals to be fed and if you want to maximize the amount of protein harvested per acre. The best stage of maturity to accomplish this goal is at the late bud to 10% bloom stage for alfalfa, at the 10% to 20% bloom stage for clovers, and between the late boot and early heading stages for grasses. Alfalfa-grass mixtures should be cut based on the stage of maturity of the alfalfa. Clover grass mixtures should be cut based on the stage of the grass.

### **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 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.

### **Producer Support Always Welcome**

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