


**MFGA Green Gold Report – May 18, 2023 – WESTERN**

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

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Binscarth	-	-	-	-
Laurier	282	277	11	36
McCreary	223	268	12	36
Miniota	-	-	-	-
Ninette	-	-	-	-
Oak Burn	-	-	-	-
Oak Lake	-	-	-	-
Oak River	-	-	-	-
Rosburn	-	-	-	-
Souris	-	-	-	-
Ste.Rose	-	-	-	-
<b>WESTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>36</b>

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## What I am seeing:

- Slight frosted tips on the alfalfa due to the late frost.
- The growth on the new forage is slow due to lower night temperatures and minimum moisture.
- Slight frost damage in the McCreary area on the tips of the alfalfa.
- Good growth for the start of the growing season despite the little moisture in some areas.

## Frost

Some parts of the province had received frost overnight on May 1st and 2nd.

Here are some guidelines to see how your fields look:

- Light Freeze (-2.8 – 0.5° C): Alfalfa plants trifoliolate leaves down the stem and some slight curling of the stem may be observed. Buds or growing points are somewhat better insulated and will continue to grow as normal. A majority of the terminal buds should still look green and alive 2 to 3 days after the freeze event.
- Moderate Freeze (-3.3-2.8° C): Upper part of the stem and terminal buds can be killed. Regrowth must occur from lower axillary buds on the stem or from new crown buds. Growth and first cutting will be delayed.
- Hard Freeze (-3.3° C and colder): Leaf, buds, and stem tissue will be killed and plants will re-grow from crown buds. First cutting will be delayed significantly.

## What is Relative Feed Value?

Relative Feed Value is an excellent measure of alfalfa quality because it reflects the digestibility (% ADF) and the intake potential (% NDF) of alfalfa. The guideline based on forage testing 30 percent ADF and 40 percent NDF would be 150 RFV with 20 percent crude protein. Producers use this guideline when buying and buying alfalfa to determine quality. The more mature the alfalfa at harvest; - the higher the percent ADF and NDF (lower Relative Feed Value). However, rain damaged hay will also be higher in ADF and NDF because the soluble sugars and carbohydrates can be leached out. Rain damaged hay is also less palatable. **RFV does not include the protein percent of the alfalfa.** Many dairy producers who purchase alfalfa utilize the chemical analysis and RFV. They also buy small quantities and feed it to the cows voluntarily to see if they readily consume it before deciding to purchase larger quantities.

The [MFGA Green Gold Program](#) targets a RFV of 150 as the optimum stage to put up alfalfa. Through our program you can time your harvest based on the quality by following the decline in RFV. When RFV decreases, your best time to cut is as soon as possible.

## Producer Support Always Welcome

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