

ALFALFA – HOW TO GROW IT IN THE SOUTH

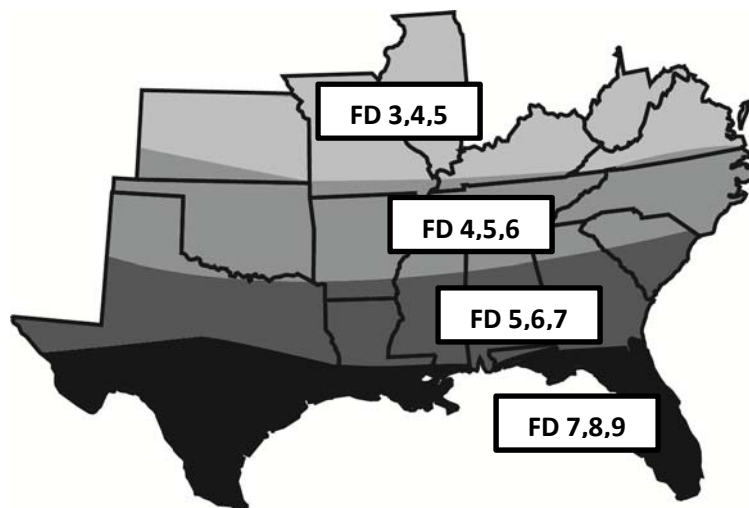
Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), known as the “Queen of Forages”, is a high-yielding, perennial legume with excellent nutritive quality and high protein. Extremely versatile, it is grown for hay, silage, pasture, wildlife plots or green chop. It fits well in a crop rotation or as a cash crop. Under good management, it yields 4-6 tons per acre and maintains productive stands for 3-5 years; although 10 year old stands are documented. Grazing tolerant varieties developed for the South persist well under all rotational stocking programs.

State/Region	Preferred Fall Seeding Window	Preferred Spring Planting Window*
OK, AR, KY, TN, SC	August 15 th to September 15 th	March 15 th to April 15 th
TX, LA, MS	October 1 st to October 15 th	March 15 th to April 15 th
AL		
North	August 15 th to October 1 st	March 15 th to April 15 th
Central	September 1 st to October 1 st	March 15 th to April 15 th
South	October 1 st to November 1 st	March 1 st to April 15 th
GA		
Upper 1/3	September 15 th to October 31 st	March 15 th to April 15 th
Lower 2/3	October 15 th to November 30 th	March 1 st to April 15 th
FL (north of 28 th parallel only)	October 15 th to November 30 th	March 1 st to April 15 th

***Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa offers the advantage of weed control during spring establishment**

KEYS TO HIGH PRODUCTIVITY

- ✓ **SELECT THE FIELD:** requires well-drained soils; no Grazon herbicides used in past 12 months
- ✓ **TEST THE SOIL:** does not tolerate low soil fertility or acidity
- ✓ **FERTILIZE AND LIME:** lime to achieve soil pH of 6.5-6.8 and add potassium (K), phosphorus (P), boron (B), and molybdenum (Mo) to soil test recommendations
- ✓ **SELECT THE VARIETY:** consider fall dormancy (FD ranges noted on the map), disease resistance and/or grazing tolerance
- ✓ **PREPARE THE SEEDBED:** must be well-prepared, firm and free of clods; if planting into established sods, especially bermudagrass, remove excess growth by mowing or grazing
- ✓ **PLANT THE SEED:** seed at 18-25 lbs per acre (25 lbs for sods) no deeper than ¼ to ½ inch
- ✓ **CONTROL THE WEEDS:** apply pre-emerge chemistry as recommended per label
- ✓ **MAINTAIN THE STAND:** monitor and apply appropriate nutrients based on soil & tissue tests



PLANTING VERSATILITY

1. DIRECT SEEDED INTO PREPARED SEEDBED
2. NO-TILL INTO SOD OR VEGETATIVE COVER
3. INTERSEEDED INTO ESTABLISHED BERMUDAGRASS
 - No bare ground means less erosion and clean baling
 - Mixture achieves much higher protein and RFQ values than pure Bermudagrass
 - No Nitrogen fertilizer needed; You are simply growing your own Nitrogen!

ALFALFA CAN BE GROWN SUCCESSFULLY IN THE SOUTH!