

These alfalfa production tips can help you establish a great stand of high yielding, high quality alfalfa.

Soil Selection

- Choose a field with good drainage
- Test the soil for pH and fertility
- Soils should have a pH of 6.5 or above
- If soil pH is below 6.5, an application of lime may be required 12 months ahead of seeding to raise soil pH

Soil Test

- Soil test for phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and other elements like sulfur
- Your local soil testing lab can make best recommendations for fertility
- P and K can be applied anytime prior to and/or at seeding
- Soil and plant tissue tests can also guide ongoing topdressing ratios throughout the life of the stand



Seeding

- With proper management, alfalfa can be seeded conventionally, into reduced tillage or into no-till
- Seed a minimum of 15 pounds per acre
- Spring seedings can begin as soon as frost is out of the ground, seeding early will help improve first year yields
- Fall seedings should occur at least 6 weeks before the historic freeze date for performance the following year

Seeding Depth

- Start with a firm seed bed
- Seed to soil contact and proper seeding depth makes the difference in stand performance
- Plant 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep in heavier soils
- Plant 1/2 to 3/4 inch deep in sandy soils

Harvest

- Cut first year spring seeded stands at early to mid-bloom (about 70-80 days after seedings)
- Subsequent harvests can be made 25 to 28 days later
- Established stands (second year or older) can be harvested more frequently without severe stand damage
- Most growers like to start first harvest on established stand with a bud cut and following harvests at early bloom (about 26-30 days in most areas)
- Traffic Tested™ varieties have been proven to withstand more frequent harvests

For specific recommendations or more information, contact your local America's Alfalfa distributor.