

Fall alfalfa seeding has advantages

DEKALB, IL. — Fall seeding of alfalfa offers many advantages when compared with spring seeding. One of the most important reasons for fall seeding is the excellent yields potential. Three cuttings are possible during the first year following fall seeding.

Another advantage is that weed and insect infestations are generally less severe in the fall. Reduced competition from these pests offers a greater opportunity for successful establishment of slow growing alfalfa seedlings.

Seeding alfalfa in the fall can also reduce a farmer's springtime workload. This is especially true in years when weather delays cause conflicts between spring seeding and other fieldwork.

Direct (clear) seeding is the method most often used when seeding alfalfa in the fall. Since no companion crop is present to protect against soil erosion, only level or gently sloping fields should be selected for fall seeding of alfalfa.

Seeding rates vary depending on geographic area and soil con-

ditions. Twelve to eighteen pounds per acre will produce the desired seeding year stand of 20 to 30 plants per square foot in most areas. Only high quality, properly inoculated seed should be used.

Planting depth varies with soil type and ranges from ¼ to ½ inch on heavier clay soils to a maximum of 1 inch of sandy soils. Proper depth control is essential to avoid planting alfalfa too deep.

A soil test should be used to determine fertility needs. The proper soil pH range for alfalfa is between 6.5 and 7.0. When lime is needed to correct soil pH it should be thoroughly mixed into the soil six months prior to seeding alfalfa. The most desirable soil fertility levels for alfalfa production follow:

	lbs./A
Available phosphorus	50-60
Exchangeable potassium	350-400
Boron	30
Sulfur	40

Timing is critical to the success of fall seeded alfalfa. Seeding should be completed at least 6 weeks prior to the first killing frost

in the fall. This allows young alfalfa plants time to establish strong root systems to withstand cold winter temperatures and soil heaving stresses. The harsh winters of some northern states make these less suitable for fall seeding.

Conveyor options cited

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL. — Several new options now available for the popular model 210 belt conveyor made by A.O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc., can increase the product's efficiency and versatility.

These include mini-cleat belting, a declining joint, a bottom motor mount, and a speed reduction pack.

The new belting features 1/8-in. high miniature cleats placed in a herringbone pattern across the belt's surface. These cleats allow the conveyor to operate effectively at up to 40 degrees incline for forage or mixed forage and grain.

Infinitely adjustable from 0 to 40

degrees the declining joint eliminates the need for two conveyors where capabilities of both an overhead and incline conveyor are required.

The bottom motor mount allows the drive motor to be mounted under the conveyor, permitting the product to be placed close under the ceiling or under other equipment.

By reducing belt speed from 405 feet per minute to 260 feet per minute, the new speed reduction pack can increase the conveying ability of the model 210 conveyor in extreme inclines, as well as reducing horse power requirements.

Tobacco grant presented

Landisville, — R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. has presented Pennsylvania State University with a gift of \$8,000 for tobacco production research.

The funds will be used for projects in plant breeding,

measuring the nutrient content of manure applied to tobacco soils, determination of objective characteristics that indicate superior leaf for chewing tobaccos, and determining the effect of maturity on chewing tobacco quality.

J. D. Rogers of the R&D Agricultural Programs Division at Reynolds Tobacco, presented the check for the gift to Dr. John O. Yocum, senior research associate and superintendent of the Southeastern Field Research Laboratory.

R.J. Reynolds contributions to tobacco research, extension and education at Pennsylvania State University have totaled \$68,350 since 1979. Since 1962, Reynolds' contributions for tobacco research, extension and education at land grant universities have totaled more than \$5.5 million.



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