

Foraging Around



By Dr. John E. Baylor
 Director of Market Development
 Beachley-Hardy Seed Company

they establish a new stand.

High yields, of course, start with varieties that have high yield potential. But soil and moisture conditions, your fertility and cutting management programs, and pest control, along with other management factors, all enter into the yield picture very strongly.

Most growers agree that the most important single factor affecting quality is stage of maturity at the time of harvest. You control that. But we also now know that it's possible to breed for high quality in alfalfa without losing yield potential.

Persistence also starts with improved varieties that have the potential to persist. And here's where multiple pest resistance in alfalfa has its biggest impact. If you start with healthy plants that have an adequate level of resistance to the diseases common to your area - and then keep those plants healthy with a good fertility and management program - your stands should persist for the four or more years desired by most growers.

In my earlier column, I stated that an alfalfa variety with a moderate to high level of multiple pest resistance for a given area is generally superior in yield and resistance to a variety with high resistance to one disease or pest but

without resistance to others.

But what is an adequate level of multiple pest resistance? The National Alfalfa Variety Review Board, made up of respected alfalfa breeders from both the public and private sector, established guidelines for the industry to use when reporting the resistance of a variety to a given disease. Briefly, varieties in which less than 5% of the plants are resistant to a particular disease or insect are rated susceptible (S). Those with 6-14% resistant plants have low resistance (LR), while populations with 15-30% of the plants resistant are considered moderately resistant (MR). Varieties with 31-50% resistant plants are called

resistant (R) while those with more than 50% resistant plants can be called highly resistant (HR).

Alfalfa breeders are, of course, striving to develop high levels of resistance to all the major pests. However, numerous studies have shown that varieties rated MR or better to the problem diseases in your area usually provide adequate protection under most field conditions. The important thing to remember is that the variety should be rated MR or higher to each of the important diseases. While very high levels of resistance are impressive, this level of resistance is more than is needed for most situations.

Multiple Pest Resistance In Alfalfa How Much Is Enough?

In an earlier column, I discussed multiple pest resistance in general. And at that time I also took a brief look at the five most serious diseases attacking alfalfa in our region. These are: Bacterial Wilt, Verticillium Wilt, Anthracnose, Phytophthora Root Rot and Fusarium Wilt. There are, of course, several other disease and insect pests that can damage this valuable crop.

In this column I'd like to look at multiple pest resistance in somewhat greater depth and try to help you rate it in terms of choosing a variety or varieties for your farm.

But first let's consider for a moment what you as a producer should expect from your alfalfa crop. I've asked a number of farmers like yourself and they generally agree on the following: high yield, quality forage, persistent stands, and yes, they'd like to know that they can depend on consistent performance every time

Montour County Accepting Orders For Seedlings

DANVILLE (Montour) — The Montour County Conservation District is offering you the opportunity to invest in the future. Twelfth Annual Tree Sale orders now are being accepted for spring planting.

Included in this year's sale are evergreen and deciduous seedlings, fruit trees, ground covers, barberry bushes and spice bushes.

The most important purpose of having a tree sale is to promote conservation by the establishment of adequate cover on erodible areas. Land left empty without ground cover or trees has a greater tendency to erode than land with

cover plantings.

Cover plantings provide benefits other than soil and water conservation. Areas with trees and shrubs provide wildlife food and shelter in places where animal habitat is diminishing.

The Montour Conservation District will use monies earned through this sale to purchase educational materials and programs throughout the year.

To receive an order form call the Montour County District office at 271-3059 or stop in at the District office on Woodbine Lane in Danville.



S. & L.
HYDRAULICS
 669 S. Custer Ave.
 NEW HOLLAND, PA 17557
1-717-355-9248



Installation of Air & Hydraulic Systems

Welding, Lathwork & Repair, Air Compressors
Air Motors, Air Tools, Clippers, 12 V. Meters

Dissatisfied With The Performance Of Your Livestock or Poultry Have You Tested Your Water Supply?



It's a fact! Contaminated water can have a costly effect on your livestock and poultry performance. Our years of experience plus hundreds of farm related treatment systems has proven the validity and practicality of correcting contaminated water.

Call us today for treatment of

* Nitrates * Bacteria * Iron

* Sulfates * pH-Acidity/Alkalinity

Martin Water Conditioning Co.
 SPECIALISTS IN FARM WATER TREATMENT

548 New Holland Ave
 Lancaster PA 17602
 (717) 393 3612
 Along Rte 23



CRYSTAL CLEAN
 WATER SYSTEMS


740 E. Lincoln Ave
 Myerstown PA 17067
 (717) 866 7555
 Along Rte 422

Early Morning or Evening Call 717-345-8795
 We Serve PA & Surrounding States

Contact our Representatives in

| | |
|--|--|
| So. Chester Co., PA Dick 215-932-3307 Mt. Bethel, PA Kevin 717-897-5141 Bradford Co., PA Joel 717-274-2174 New Milford, PA Joe 717-465-7506 | W. Lancaster Co., PA Richard 717-665-7405 Belleville, Pa. Trennis 717-935-2786 Union County, PA Martin, Jr. 717-966-1191 Hagerstown, Md. Allen 301-733-0458 |
|--|--|

Virginia
 Ron 703-879-9958



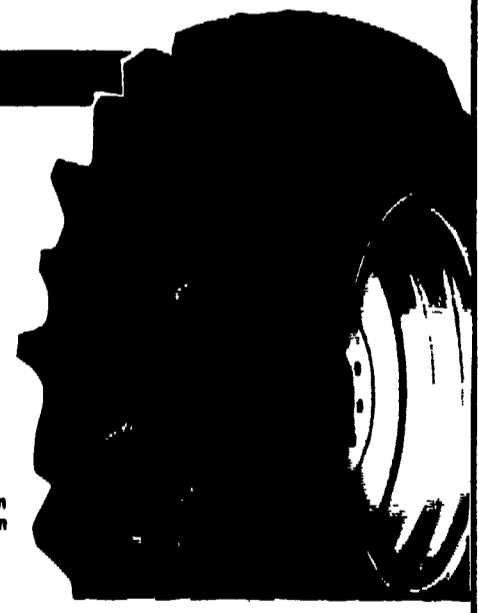
Outstanding in the field

Spring will be here before you can say, "Kelly tires mean dependable value." Be prepared! See our farm tire experts today!

KELLY A good deal on a great tire.

POWER MARK L/S
 REAR TRACTOR TIRE

- Long bar/short bar lug design for improved drawbar pull, smoother ride
- Multi-angle lugs for excellent traction in a wide range of soils and services
- Full size for dual mating with O. E. tires
- Pry notch, heavy-duty rim shield
- Over 30 sizes and types — will fit front wheel assist tractors



MULTI-RIB IMPLEMENT
 FOR TRACTOR FRONTS,
 FREE ROLLING IMPLEMENTS

- Wide rounded tread gives good flotation, tracking and easy steering without penetration
- Wide, self-cleaning grooves prevent packing in soft soils
- Extra-wide shoulder ribs for long service life
- Durable nylon cord body

JEROME H. RHOADS

INC.

BRANCH OFFICE
 11 S. Lime Street
 Quarryville
 Ph. 717-786-7389