

ALFALFA ALERT

Are you ready for a wet spring?

by Willard Jones

Phytophthora root rot can steal you blind if new seedlings get waterlogged this spring.

Water triggers the fungus attack, killing new seedlings.

Hay losses can run \$50 to \$100 an acre. Every year.

But it doesn't have to happen. Best advice is to (1) seed an alfalfa with high resistance to Phytophthora. And (2) buy seed treated with Apron. It protects young seedlings.

Doebler gives you both. Starmaster and Precedent carry the top rating for Phytophthora--High Resistance (HR). But many alfalfas sold today are rated low resistance (LR), moderate resistance (MR) or resistant (R).

And here's where dollars can be made. As resistance ratings go up, Wisconsin researchers say, so do yields.

Here's what they found:

Phytophthora Resistance rating	Extra tons from 10 acres
HR	8
R	4
MR	3
LR	2
S	0

But don't overlook the other major diseases. All can play havoc with yields.

Best defense is a multi-disease resistant alfalfa like Doebler's Starmaster and Precedent.

DOEBLER'S
Alfalfa

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I'm Willard Jones. Phytophthora Root Rot could be on the prowl in new alfalfa seedlings this spring. My advice--seed the highly resistant Starmaster or Precedent and quit worrying.