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Phoma Crown Rot — The Traffic Disease

Of the many disease pathogens known to kill alfalfa seedlings, reduce yields and shorten stand life, only one — Phoma crown rot is called the "Traffic Disease."

A part of the crown rot complex of fungi and bacteria found in nearly every alfalfa-growing region of the U.S., Phoma crown rot is frequently associated with the crown damage resulting from wheel traffic and heavy grazing pressure. The disease commonly attacks the central portion of the crown, destroying crown buds and resulting in weakened plants, reduced stand life, and declining yields. Re-

searchers say that stands more than two years old are particularly vulnerable to this disease.

"There's probably a greater incidence of Phoma crown rot than many growers realize," said Jim Moutray, director of research for America's Alfalfa. "It's an opportunistic pathogen that tends to penetrate plant crowns after they have been damaged by wheel or grazing traffic, hence the name, the "Traffic Disease."

While it's difficult to measure the amount of yield lost to Phoma crown rot alone, recent field trails at the University of Wisconsin have demonstrated

that wheel traffic — and tand 403T the first variety associated diseases can reduce alfalfa yields by as much as 70 percent on any given harvest. Now, alfalfa growers can protect their stands from Phoma crown rot and the yield losses associated with wheel traffic with new AmeriStand 403T, the first and only Traffic Tested[™] variety bred to deliver more yield under every wheel.

Selected from parent stock proven to withstand intense grazing and wheel traffic, AmeriStand 403T has the genetic potential to produce crowns and roots nearly twice the size of many conventional varieties. Not only is AmeriS-

offering a high level of resistance to Phoma crown rot, but it is also highly resistant to other major diseases including Aphanomyces root rot. Phytophthora root rot, Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, and Anthracnose. Because AmeriStand 403T combines the winterhardiness of a "2" fall dormant variety with the yield potential of a "4" dormancy full-season variety, it is adapted to nearly all alfalfa-growing areas of the country. Last year, this variety became the first fullseason variety to earn a winter survival rating of 1.8 — the highest such rating ever awarded a fullseason variety in the nation's only independent university trials.

The offspring of 148 parent clones, AmeriStand 403T was introduced in limited supplies in 2001. Growers who have now completed their first two full harvest seasons with this new variety have reported exceptional stand establishment, rapid root and crown development, and big yields of high quality hay.

> For more information, including a free video, call America's Alfalfa Customer Service at (800) 873-2532 or visit www.americasalfalfa.

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PFGC Members Forage Market PFGC members are welcome to submit an ad for hay or silage for pub-

lication in Foraging Around.

Deadline is Jan. 24 for the Feb. 8 issue.

Send ad information to Richard Hann, PFGC, P.O. Box 355, Hershey, PA 17033, or e-mail Hannr54+Aaol.com.

Please remember we accept ads for forages only.

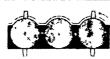
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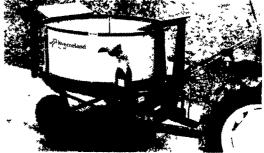
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