

Green Gold Report – May 30, 2016 – WESTERN / INTERLAKE

Hay Day is today. Looking at the results from testing on Monday indicates that RFV in the North have slowed to about 3 pts/day. In the South we are seeing some variation in the sample.

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Arborg	154	188	23	24
Oak Point	187	222	17	28
Roblin	185	217	19	27
NORTH AVERAGE	175	209	20	26
Brandon				
McAuley	183	184	24	25
Virden				
Virden North		178	24	
SOUTHWEST AVERAGE	183	181	24	25

From the last report we have seen the alfalfa in the area added between 3-4 inches. The crop hasn't advanced that far with most in the late veg to early bud stage. Looking at the forecast this week it looks like we will continue with rain and cooler temperatures which may continue in slowing the drop in RFV

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Aphids

I received a report from the Western area about aphids. These are likely pea aphids. It is quite common to have pea aphids in alfalfa, and low levels are probably of more benefit than harm by attracting natural enemies into the alfalfa.

Economic thresholds for aphids are quite high and really only applicable when the crop is also drought stressed.



Temperature

With the rain, the cool temperatures this week may be a bonus. Temperature is the driving force behind most physiological processes that occur in a plant. These include photosynthesis, respiration, and translocation of nutrients, carbon partitioning and cell wall formation. It stands to reason that changing temperature will have a dramatic impact on what goes on inside the plant. We see these effects each and every year when comparing alfalfa regrowth and forage quality in summer to that of regrowth and quality in the fall. Alfalfa can actually increase in quality over time in the fall as a result of cooler growing temperatures.

Rain on Alfalfa

With haying not that far away the 5mm rain recently has some thinking about waiting.

There are many studies on this and they have determined that a one inch rain 24 hours after being cut can cause losses of up to 22% in dry matter. Whereas a 1.6 inch rain over several day caused a loss of 44%.

The loss is due to leaching of nutrients like the carbohydrates and plant respiration which occurs until the plant reaches 30-40% moisture and each time it gets rained on. It is interesting that the studies show that hay that is almost dry enough to be baled will lose more dry matter when rained on than hay that has just been cut.

Crude protein doesn't seem to be affected by rain but digestibility is lower due to the leaching of the carbohydrates and the ADF and NDF will increase.

Grass hay often will not experience the same degree of loss as alfalfa hay. The majority of yield loss in alfalfa hay is due to leaf loss. Grass leaves are not as easily lost. For more information on this click on [RAIN](#)