



County	Contact	Premium Hay (\$/ton)	Top Quality Hay (\$/ton)	Other Hay (\$/ton)	Cut Complete/Condition	Market Activity
Chaves	Sandra Barraza, County Agent	\$190-220 large; \$240-250 small, \$7.00-8.50/bale	\$175-190 large, light striped	\$175 large, striped	5 th 65%, 6 th starting; some rain, warm days/cool nights	Strong, most growers contracted
De Baca	Leigh Ann Marez, County Agent	\$210 large; \$230 small; \$30 back per grade	\$200 small, light stripe	\$170 small, heavy stripe	5 th 60%	Good demand; short supply on large bales
Dona Ana	Rafa Realivasquez, County Agent	\$180 large; \$7.00/bale small	\$140 large; \$5.75/bale small	\$100 large; \$3.00/bale small	5 th 75%, rain delays	Good, short supply due to rain - horse hay
Eddy	Woods Houghton, County Agent	\$220-240 large; \$230-240 small	\$160-190 large light striped	\$180-200 small light striped	5 th 75%	Most growers contracted
Lea	Wayne Cox, County Agent	\$210-220 large	\$200-210 large	\$180 and up	5 th 75%	Active
Roosevelt	Patrick Kircher, County Agent	\$225 and up large	\$200 large; \$6.50-7.00/bale	\$160 and up	5 th 60%; spotty rain/worm damage	Steady, may surpass supply
Torrance	Gene Winn, County Agent	\$190-200 large	\$180-190 large	\$140-160 large rained on	3 rd 100%, 50% top quality out of 3 rd	Good to excellent
SE & SW Colorado	USDA-CO	\$185-200 large; \$7.00-8.00/bale	\$160-185 large \$5.50 to 6.00/bale small	\$140-175 large fair quality	3 rd - slowed due to rains; some 4 th started	Active; demand is good; supplies tight

Weed Control in Seedling Alfalfa Stands – Fall Planted

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In the July issue of the *Alfalfa Market News*, Calvin Trostle wrote about the advantages of fall seeding alfalfa over spring seeding. While the issue of weed control is somewhat less of a concern in the fall and winter seasons, weeds can still be a significant problem, especially in newly planted stands. It goes without saying that establishing a healthy alfalfa crop is critical to stand longevity and productivity during the life of the stand. There is perhaps no more critical time to control weeds than prior to or during stand establishment, especially troublesome perennial weeds (e.g., nutsedges) that are difficult to control. These perennial weeds should be controlled prior to seeding if at all possible. Growers should be aware of the types of weeds that are common in their area and should be familiar with the history of their fields to be able to anticipate potential weed outbreaks and be prepared for them when they do occur. Some of the more common winter annual weeds in New Mexico are the grasses Downy Brome (cheatgrass), and Rescuegrass, and the broadleaf weeds Flixweed, London Rocket, Shepherdspurse, and Tansymustard. In addition, volunteer wheat and jointed goatgrass can be a problem in fields following wheat or other small grain production. Chemical treatment of these weeds will depend on several factors including weed type, weather conditions, cost of application, and weed threshold levels. If infestation is severe enough and warrants spraying, there are several products available for use.

Table 1 lists the herbicides that are labeled for use on seedling alfalfa. Table 2 gives some of the precautionary restrictions of herbicides used with previous crops prior to seeding new stands of alfalfa.

Table 1. Herbicides with activity on winter weeds labeled for use on seedling alfalfa, recommended rates, and types of weeds controlled.

Common Name	Trade Name	Rates of Application	Weeds Controlled†
Bromoxynil	Buctril, Bromox	1.0-1.5 pt	W-B, S-B
Apply after alfalfa has at least 4 trifoliolate leaves and less than 2 inches tall. Improved efficacy when mixed with 2,4-DB.			
2,4-DB Amine	Butyrac 200	1.0-3.0 qt	W-B, S-B
Apply to alfalfa at 2-4 trifoliolate leaves and when weeds are less than 3 inches tall. Improved efficacy when mixed with Bromoxynil.			
Clethodim	Select	6.0-8.0 oz	W-G, S-G
Good control of winter annual grasses (e.g., <i>Bromus</i> sp.). Most effective on grasses before they have been mowed.			
Imazethapyr	Pursuit	3.0-6.0 oz	W-B, S-B, S-G
Apply after alfalfa has at least 2 trifoliolate leaves and when weeds are small. Limited effectiveness on weeds that are environmentally stressed and not actively growing. Good control of winter annual mustards.			
Sethoxydim	Poast	0.5-2.5 pt	W-G, S-G
For grass weed control only. Apply when weeds are 3 to 8 inches tall and actively growing.			
Pronamide	Kerb 50W	1.0-4.0 lb	W-G, S-G, S-B
Apply post- to alfalfa, pre-/post- to weeds. Apply to alfalfa after 1 st trifoliolate leaf in fall. Good on winter annual grasses.			
Trifluralin	Treflan	1.5-4.0 pt	W-G, S-G, S-B
Apply post- to alfalfa, pre- to weeds. Will need to be incorporated either through tillage or irrigation depending on formulation.			

Sources: *Managing Weeds in Alfalfa*, NMSU Coop. Ext. Pub. Guide A-325; *2007 Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland*. Kansas State Univ. Coop. Ext. Pub. Report 977.

† W = Winter, S = Summer; G = Grass, B = Broadleaf

Table 2. Selected planting restrictions for alfalfa following herbicides in previous crops.

Previous Crop	Herbicide(s)	Restriction
Wheat	Glean, Amber, Finesse	Field Inspection of Emergence
Wheat	Ally	34 months
Corn	Accent	12 months
Corn	Beacon	8 months
Alfalfa	Pursuit	24 months
Alfalfa	Sinbar, Velpar	24 months

Source: *Alfalfa Production Guide for the Southern Great Plains*. Oklahoma Coop. Ext. Pub. Circular E-826.

Always read the herbicide label for specific rates, instructions and precautions prior to use. For more information on common weeds in alfalfa in New Mexico and their control see *Managing Weeds in Alfalfa*, NMSU Extension Guide A-325 or contact your local New Mexico county extension agent.

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