



Hay Prices for New Mexico

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County	Contact	Premium Hay (\$/ton)	Top Quality Hay (\$/ton)	Other Hay (\$/ton)	Condition/ Market Activity/Cut Complete
Chaves	Sandra Barraza, County Agent	\$270-300 large del; \$320-340 small in the barn		\$250 large striped hay	7 th cuts started; moderate market activity; warm days, cool nights; scattered rain showers
Colfax	Boe Lopez, County Agent	\$260 large, \$285 small bales		\$245-255 cow hay large	2 nd 100%; only 2 cuttings, no water
Dona Ana	Teresa Dean, County Agent	\$175-300 large; \$300 del; \$8.50-10.00 small bales		\$150 rained on hay	6 th cuts; high demand with most going to dairies
Eddy	Woods Houghton, County Agent	\$10 per bale small green		\$9 per bale small light striped	Cuts varying from #3 to #7 depending on location and water; slow market, horse quality hay moving; out of state calls shopping for large bales
Lea	Wayne Cox, County Agent	\$250-260 large; \$10.50-11.00 small	\$240 large; \$9 small	N/A	6 th cuts
Luna	Jack Blandford, County Agent	\$265-280; \$7.00-8.00 small squares		\$100/bale sudan 1200-1300 lb bales	7 th cut 50%; good demand; most going to dairies/horse market; nights cooling; Verticillium showing up
Roosevelt	Patrick Kircher, County Agent	\$250-260 large		\$230-240 rained on hay	5 th 100%; market very active, demand firm, very little in storage; light frost 10/8

Prices are a compilation of Agent information and other area estimates.

N/A = prices and/or supplies not available at this time

Weed Control in Alfalfa with Sandea® Herbicide

Jamshid Ashigh, Extension Weed Specialist, NMSU Extension Plant Sciences Department

Hard to control weeds such as nutsedge and various broadleaf weeds can be significant problems in alfalfa fields, and they can lead to considerable stand reductions and subsequent profit loss. Few products are available for nutsedge control in alfalfa. Sandea is a registered herbicide for weed management in established alfalfa with a pre-harvest interval of 14 days. Sandea, which contains the active ingredient halosulfuron-methyl, is effective in control of yellow and purple nutsedge and select broadleaf weeds. The herbicide provides both pre-emergence and post-emergence control. However, the post-emergence application of this herbicide is less effective than pre-emergence application for broadleaf weed control. Nutsedge control is only consistent when treated post-emergence. In fact, when nutsedge is the target, growers must allow the sedges to develop a leaf canopy to better intercept the herbicide. It is important to realize that since nutsedges reproduce mainly with underground tubers, the complete control of these plants, even with Sandea herbicide, might require several applications.

Figure 1 shows selected data from a study in Las Cruces in which nutsedge control with Sandea at the rates of 0.75 and 1.0 ounce per acre were compared with non-treated control plots, Raptor (at 4 ounces per acre), and Pursuit (at 3 ounces per acre) as standard treatments. In this study, the optimal control of nutsedge

plants was achieved by application of 1 ounce per acre of Sandea, also, the application of this herbicide at 0.75 ounce per acre provided at least 80% control and was significantly higher than Pursuit and Raptor herbicides.

One of the drawbacks to the use of Sandea herbicide is its relatively high cost (currently about \$40.00 per ounce). However, in nutsedge infested alfalfa fields, the use of Sandea will improve the existing alfalfa stands by removing competitive sedges. In addition, removal of nutsedge by Sandea takes away an excellent host plant for nematodes, thus reducing their populations in the fields. Nematodes not only are detrimental to existing alfalfa stands, but will also impact subsequent crops, such as cotton and chile peppers, planted after the removal of alfalfa.

Sandea will not control grasses, but application of this herbicide may suppress some grass species. Based on the label directions, Sandea may be applied at a rate of 0.75 to 1.0 ounce per acre using a minimum of 20 gallons of water per acre. To ensure proper post-emergence control from this herbicide, a minimum of 48 hours must be allowed before irrigation. Furthermore, the maximum application of this product must not exceed 2 ounces per acre per year. It is important to know that between cutting applications of Sandea can cause crop injury. The injury could result in yield loss in the first cutting after the application, but the alfalfa will recover after the first cutting and the yield loss will be minimal. The degree of injury has been associated with the size of alfalfa re-growth at the time of application; therefore, to reduce the injury growers should apply this herbicide as soon as the alfalfa is baled and before the re-growth reaches 6 inches. Our field studies in Las Cruces have indicated between 35% to 45% yield loss, compared with nontreated control, in the first cutting after the application of this herbicide (Figure 2). However, the percent yield loss in the second cutting after the application of Sandea ranged from 5% to 7% (Figure 2). Our results did not associate any alfalfa injury with the application of Raptor (at 4 ounces per acre) and Pursuit (at 3 ounces per acre) (Figure 2).

Considering the importance of nutsedge control, cost of Sandea herbicide, and possible alfalfa injury from this herbicide, it may be more effective and less expensive, if nutsedges emerge in spots, to treat the spots and not apply Sandea over the whole field.

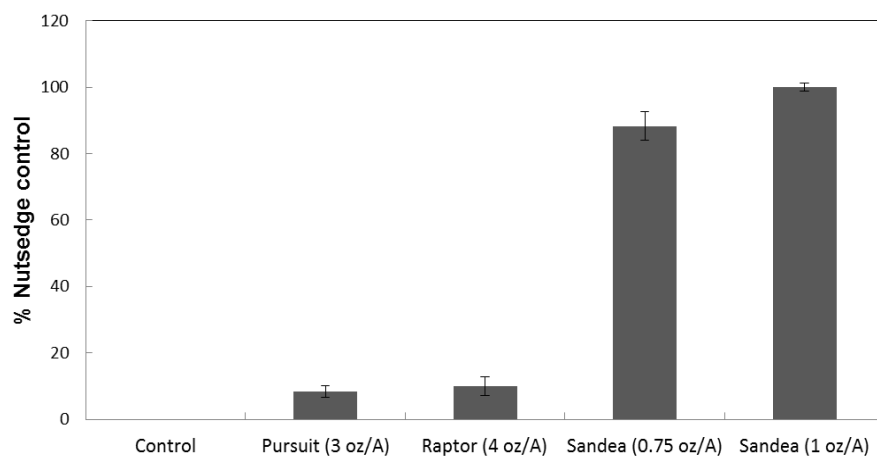


Figure 1. Percent control of yellow nutsedge plants with Sandea at its recommended field rates in established alfalfa as compared to Pursuit, Raptor and non-treated control treatments.

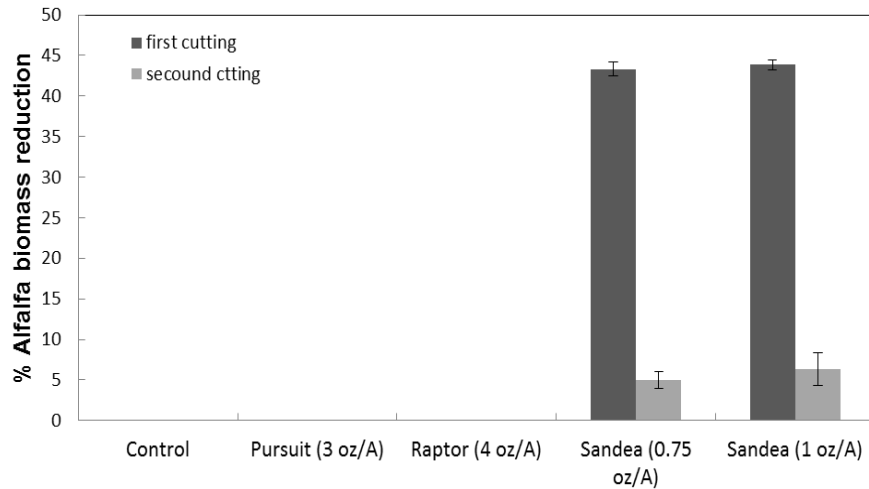


Figure 2. Percent alfalfa biomass reduction after first and second cutting of alfalfa treated with Sandea, Pursuit and Raptor herbicides.

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Please be aware that pesticide labels and registration can change at any time; by law, it is the applicator's responsibility to use pesticides ONLY according to the directions on the current label. Use pesticides selectively and carefully and follow recommended procedures for the safe storage and disposal of surplus pesticides and containers.



***** Mark Your Calendars *****

The date has been set for the 2013 Southwest Hay & Forage Conference (January 23-25, 2013). As usual, the event will take place at the Ruidoso Convention Center, Ruidoso, NM. For more information, please contact Gina Sterrett at 575-626-5677 or visit <http://www.nmhay.com/>.

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