BLACK DIAMOND ALFALFA

## DEFINED

Yield potential, low ADF, and high protein make Black Diamond Alfalfa very appealing to top dairymen and cash hay producers. Excellent winter hardiness and resistance to wet soils make Black Diamond persistent in tough-to-grow areas for the long-rotation growers. Its high resistance to Aphanomyces and Phytophthora Root Rot help produce high yields when planted in heavy or poorly drained soils.

# ECONOMIC VALUE

Improved alfalfa seed costs more than common alfalfa (or variety unknown), but it can provide a greater return. Consider common alfalfa at 20 pounds of seed per acre and $2 per pound with a cost of $40 per acre compared with improved varieties at 20 pounds per acre and $4 per pound with a cost of $80 per acre. Over a five-year period, improved varieties yielded one ton per acre per year more on average than common. Using five-year average prices, the higher yield difference improved net returns by about $80 per acre per year, accounting both for higher seed cost and higher harvesting costs. Insect and weed control costs are also less for the improved varieties. Quality was higher, with fewer weeds in the harvested alfalfa and with less leaf damage from insects. Additionally, improved varieties contributed to increased stand longevity by at least one to two years. Black Diamond Alfalfa cut for hay has an average yield of 5.35 tons per acre.

Estimated value of alfalfa hay = $220.50 per ton ($1179.67 per acre).

## DISEASE, INSECT,AND NEMATODE RESISTANCE RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| **VERTICILIUM WILT** | Highly Resistant |
| **ANTHRACNOSE** | Highly Resistant |
| **BACTERIAL WILT** | Highly Resistant |
| **FUSARIUM WILT** | Highly Resistant |
| **PHYTOPHTHORA ROOT ROT** | Highly Resistant |
| **APHANOMYCES** | Highly Resistant |
| **PEA APHID** | Resistant |
| **LEAFHOPPER** | Resistant |
| **STEM NEMATODE** | Resistant |

# PLANTING GUIDE

| | |
|---|---|
| **SEEDING RATE ALONE/ ACRE** | 18–20 lbs |
| **SEEDING RATE IN MIX/ ACRE** | 5–8 lbs |
| **SEEDING DEPTH** | 1/8–1/4in |
| **DAYS TO GERMINATE** | 10–15 |
| **AVERAGE SEEDS PER LB** | 225,000 |
| **EASE OF ESTABLISHMENT** | Excellent |
| **LIFE CYCLE** | Perennial |

# AGRONOMIC TRAITS

| | |
|---|---|
| **FORAGE YIELD** | Excellent |
| **FORAGE QUALITY** | Excellent |
| **MATURITY** | Medium |
| **PERSISTENCE** | Excellent |
| **PALATABILITY** | Excellent |
| **GROWTH HABIT** | Tap-Rooted |
| **DROUGHT TOLERANCE** | Excellent |
| **MOISTURE TOLERANCE** | Good |
| **HAY** | Good |
| **SILAGE** | Good |
| **PASTURE** | Excellent |
| **GROWTH** | Spring–Fall |
| **FALL DORMANCY** | 4 |
| **WINTER HEARTINESS** | 3 |
| **DRI** | 30 |

# USES

## FORAGE

Black Diamond is primarily used for hay or silage. When mixed with corn silage, it can compliment the energy from corn and produce a very efficient feed for dairy animals. It also serves as a high-quality pasture for all types of livestock, and when mixed with grasses, the risk of bloat can be reduced.

## EROSION CONTROL

In addition to supplying nitrogen to the soil, Black Diamond can also reduce water runoff and soil erosion, as well as improve soil tilth.

## WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION

"Green values" derived from soil improvement, reduced soil erosion, and improved water quality are difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, alfalfa contributes significantly to cropland soil improvement, stabilizing soil and increasing water infiltration. Its extensive, fibrous taproot system decreases soil density and erosion, while improving soil structure.

## WILDLIFE

Black Diamond provides significant habitat as a nesting cover. The high palatability of Alfalfa, which makes it such a good dairy feed, also makes it desirable to many herbivores.

# SUITABLE FOR


DAIRY AND BEEF CATTLE


HORSES


SHEEP AND GOATS


WILD LIFE


HAY


SILAGE


PASTURE


COVER CROP

Distributed By:


- Improved disease resistance
- Very quick recovery
- Dark green color
- Excellent hay for dairy & livestock