

DRYLAND ALFALFA YIELDS

Excellent yields were obtained from the plots in the dryland alfalfa study. Dry weights of the yields of the different varieties are given in [Table 6](#). These plots were seeded in the spring of 1952, with the 1953 season being the first year of production. After the first cutting, regrowth was very slow, and only one cutting was obtained this year.

Surprisingly, Narragansett, was the top producer this season, edging out Ladak by 0.09 ton. Narragansett, Ladak and Cossack all produced better than two tons of forage per acre. Ranger, which is now grown commonly enough to be considered one of the standard alfalfas, yielded 1.73 tons per acre, just slightly better than Nomad, the lowest producer this year in the 11 strains under test.

All stands in the plots of this trial are now 100 per cent stands, with the exception of one of the plots of Grimm Alfalfa. The manure, which was spread on the plots in the 1951 season to prevent soil blowing, may have had some influence on the yields produced this season. But distribution of the manure was reasonably uniform, and it seems unlikely that the plots of any one strain of alfalfa were favored with an extra supply of this organic fertilizer.

Table 6 - Yield of Hay from Alfalfa Variety Plots in Dryland Alfalfa Study - Dickinson Experiment Station - 1953

Variety	Yield ¹ Tons Per Acre
Narragansett	2.18
Ladak	2.09
Cossack	2.04
N-Synthetic	1.93

Atlantic	1.92
DuPuits	1.83
Grimm	1.80
Rhizoma	1.78
Sevelra	1.73
Ranger	1.73
Nomad	1.68
Average	1.88

¹Only one cutting obtained this season.

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