



SPRING OPTIONS FOR REDUCED ALFALFA HAY STANDS

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1 Characterize alfalfa stand

- a. Assess stand loss and health (see <https://bit.ly/uwalfalfastand>)
 - i. Estimate yield potential from stem counts when stems reach at least 2" in height
 - ii. Assess crown and root health. Dig plants to depth of at least 6" from 3-4 locations in field
- b. Determine pattern of stand loss across field: Is it uniform or are there large bare areas with acceptable stand in some areas?
- c. When was stand planted: last year or previous years?

2 Characterize soil type, texture, and drainage

3 Follow charts at right to determine best option

Additional Resources:

- Alfalfa Winterkill: What now? <https://bit.ly/umnalfalfawinterkill>
- Seeding Alfalfa Fields Back to Alfalfa <https://bit.ly/uwseedingalfalfa>
- When Alfalfa Winterkills, What Can You Do? <https://bit.ly/msualfalfawinterkill>
- Boosting Forage Yields in Thin Alfalfa Stands <https://bit.ly/alsalfalfawinterkill>

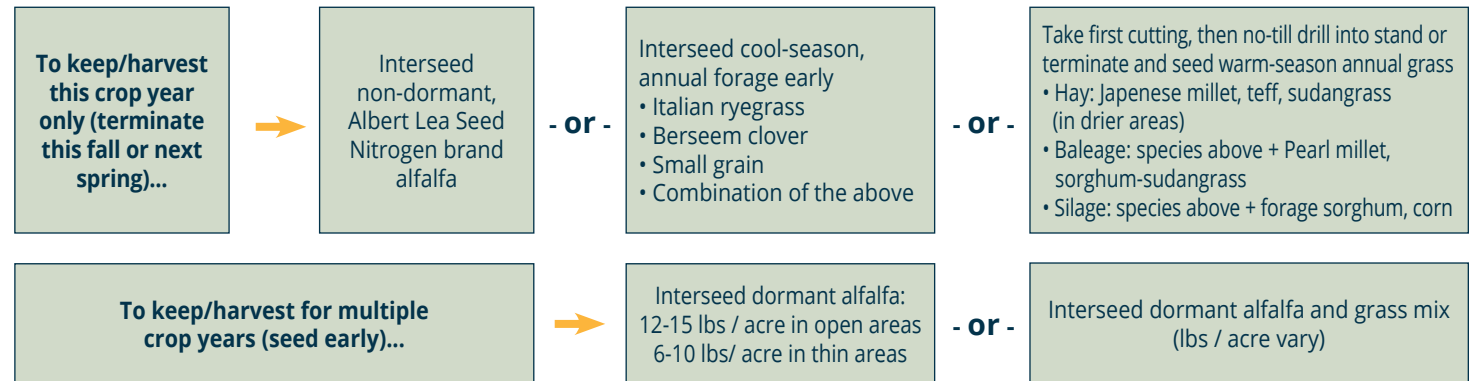
UNIFORM LOSS ACROSS FIELD

Alfalfa stems per square foot	> 55 →	No yield loss expected. Keep stand.
	40-55 →	Some yield loss expected, but stand likely too competitive to interseed. Keep stand.
	< 40 →	Yield loss expected. Replace stand or interseed other species (follow charts below).

Health of crowns & roots also influences these decisions. Check reference under 1a at left.

IRREGULAR LOSSES WITH LARGE GAPS IN FIELD

STAND ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR



STAND ESTABLISHED 2 OR MORE YEARS AGO (Do not interseed alfalfa due to autotoxicity)

