

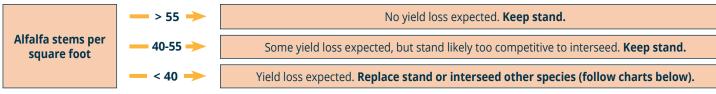
SPRING OPTIONS FOR REDUCED ALFALFA HAY STANDS

Margaret A Smith, PhD, Forage Agronomist

Characterize alfalfa stand

- a. Assess stand loss and health (see https://bit.ly/uwalfalfastand)
 - i. Estimate yield potential from stem counts when stems are 2" to 6" 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?
- Characterize soil type, texture, and drainage
- Follow charts at right to determine best option

UNIFORM LOSS ACROSS FIELD



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

To keep/harvest this crop year only (terminate this fall or next spring)...

Interseed
non-dormant,
Albert Lea Seed
Nitrogen brand
alfalfa

rmant, ea Seed - **or** -

Interseed cool-season, annual forage early

- Italian ryegrass
- Berseem clover
- Small grain
- Combination of the above

Take first cutting, then no-till drill into stand or terminate and seed warm-season annual grass

- Hay: Japenese millet, teff, sudangrass (in drier areas)
- Baleage: species above + Pearl millet, sorghum-sudangrass
- Silage: species above + forage sorghum, corn

To keep/harvest for multiple crop years (seed early)...

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Interseed dormant alfalfa: 12-15 lbs / acre in open areas 6-10 lbs/ acre in thin areas

- or -

- or -

Interseed dormant alfalfa and grass mix (lbs / acre vary)

Additional Resources:

- 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

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

To keep/harvest this crop year only (terminate this fall or next spring)...



Interseed cool-season, annual forage early

- Italian ryegrass
- Berseem clover
- Small grain
- Combination of the above

- or -

Take first cutting, then no-till drill into stand or terminate and seed warm-season annual grass

- Hay: Japenese millet, teff, sudangrass (in drier areas)
- Baleage: species above + Pearl millet, sorghum-sudangrass
- Silage: species above + forage sorghum, corn

To keep/harvest for multiple crop years...



Interseed perennial legumes: red clover, alsike clover

- or -

Interseed perennial grasses: tall or meadow fescue, orchardgrass, Hakari Alaska bromegrass, festulolium, perennial ryegrass, Renovator mix

- or -

Interseed combination of legumes and grasses (lbs / acre vary)