

# ALFALFA SEED

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## ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT

The 1978 alfalfa seed crop, forecast at 91.3 million pounds, is 5 percent below the 1977 production. Acreage forecast for harvest at 491 thousand acres is up 25 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 186 pounds per acre, down 59 pounds from 1977.

Acreage for harvest is above the previous year in all States except Montana and Utah. Heavy rains in the San Joaquin Valley reduced yields in California by more than half compared with 1977. Cool and wet weather also lowered yields in Idaho, Washington, Nevada and Oregon.

## CARRYOVER AND SUPPLY

The total U.S. supply of alfalfa seed for the 1978 season is indicated at 119 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year. Farmer owned carryover was up 8 percent, and dealer owned inventories also increased 8 percent. Imports for the year ending June 30, 1978 totaled 777 thousand pounds compared with 160 thousand pounds a year earlier. Exports during the same period totaled 7622 metric tons (16.8 million pounds) compared with 5004 metric tons (11.0 million pounds) in 1977.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION  
1976, 1977 AND 1978

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1976	1977	1978 <sup>1/</sup>	1976	1977	1978 <sup>1/</sup>	1976	1977	1978 <sup>1/</sup>
	ACRES			POUNDS PER ACRE			1,000 POUNDS		
ARIZ <sup>2/</sup>	2,500	1,000		160	150		400	150	
CALIF	48,000	47,000	64,000	585	660	310	28,080	31,020	19,840
IDAHO	26,000	33,000	43,000	370	430	340	9,620	14,190	14,620
KANS	48,000	42,000	68,000	110	95	110	5,280	3,990	7,480
MONT	24,000	39,000	29,000	100	90	80	2,400	3,510	2,320
NEBR	23,000	28,000	32,000	80	75	75	1,840	2,100	2,400
NEV	11,500	15,500	17,000	355	520	370	4,083	8,060	6,290
N DAK	18,000	8,000	10,000	50	40	45	900	320	450
OKLA	19,000	32,000	50,000	200	140	155	3,800	4,480	7,750
OREG	11,000	13,000	16,000	415	470	390	4,565	6,110	6,240
S DAK	81,000	89,000	115,000	65	65	70	5,265	5,785	8,050
UTAH	11,000	14,000	14,000	215	260	230	2,365	3,640	3,220
WASH	27,000	31,000	33,000	450	410	380	12,150	12,710	12,540
U S <sup>3/</sup>	347,500	391,500	491,000	231	245	186	80,348	95,915	91,256

<sup>1/</sup> INDICATED.

<sup>2/</sup> ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED BEGINNING WITH THE 1978 CROP YEAR.

<sup>3/</sup> ARIZ NOT INCLUDED IN U.S. TOTAL FOR 1976 AND 1977.

ALFALFA SEED SUPPLY: UNITED STATES 1976, 1977 AND 1978

ITEM	1976	1977	1978 <sup>1/</sup>
	1,000 POUNDS		
PRODUCTION	2/80,748	2/96,065	91,256
FARM CARRYOVER <sup>3/</sup>	2/7,852	2/3,908	4,225
DEALER CARRYOVER	27,596	22,120	23,960
SUPPLY (PRODUCTION PLUS CARRYOVER)	2/116,196	2/122,093	119,441

<sup>1/</sup> INDICATED.

<sup>2/</sup> INCLUDES STATES DISCONTINUED FOLLOWING THE 1977 CROP.

<sup>3/</sup> INCLUDES GROWER-OWNED SEED STORED FROM THE 1977 CROP AND EARLIER YEARS IN DEALER WAREHOUSES.