

# ALFALFA SEED

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## ALFALFA SEED CROP OFF 3 PERCENT

Alfalfa seed production is forecast at 97.1 million pounds (44.0 thousand metric tons) for 1980, down 3 percent from last year but 6 percent more than two years ago. Acreage for harvest is down 21 percent to an estimated 392 thousand acres (159 thousand hectares) as farmers diverted many fields to hay or other crops. The average seed yield per acre is expected to increase 47 pounds from last year to 248 pounds.

Drought conditions hurt alfalfa seed prospects in the Northern Plains. Acreage for seed harvest was cut back sharply in Idaho, the Dakotas, Montana and Nebraska. Washington farmers diverted many seed fields to hay production as volcanic ash fallout from the Mount St. Helens eruptions killed pollinating bees. In Utah, a late spring and hot summer reduced seed production.

California, the Nation's leading alfalfa seed producer, expects to clean 13 percent more seed than last year. Improvement is also noted in Oregon where harvest weather was good. Kansas and Oklahoma farmers increased both acreage and yield over last year.

## CARRYOVER AND SUPPLY

The total supply of alfalfa seed for the 1980-81 marketing year is indicated at 137 million pounds, 3 percent more than last year.

Farmer owned carryover on June 30, 1980 increased two-thirds and dealer owned inventories increased 10 percent compared with a year ago. Imports of alfalfa seed during the year ending June 30, 1980 totaled 59 thousand pounds, less than one-third of the 189 thousand pounds imported the year before. Exports totaled 8939 metric tons (19.7 million pounds), a jump of 60 percent from the 5597 metric tons (12.3 million pounds) exported the previous marketing season.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION  
1978, 1979 AND 1980

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1978	1979	1980 <sup>1/</sup>	1978	1979	1980 <sup>1/</sup>	1978	1979	1980 <sup>1/</sup>
	ACRES			POUNDS			1,000 POUNDS		
CALIF	64,000	80,000	77,000	280	435	510	17,920	34,800	39,270
IDAHO	43,000	42,000	36,000	350	385	400	15,050	16,170	14,400
KANS	60,000	40,000	42,000	115	95	110	6,900	3,800	4,620
MONT	26,000	42,000	35,000	85	140	115	2,210	5,880	4,025
NEBR	32,000	27,000	23,000	75	65	65	2,400	1,755	1,495
NEV	17,000	18,000	17,000	365	405	400	6,205	7,290	6,800
N DAK	17,000	6,000	4,000	45	45	45	765	270	180
OKLA	55,000	45,000	50,000	145	125	145	7,975	5,625	7,250
OREG	14,000	14,000	13,000	345	300	330	4,830	4,200	4,290
S DAK	150,000	130,000	60,000	85	55	65	12,750	7,150	3,900
UTAH	15,000	17,000	14,000	290	280	250	4,350	4,760	3,500
WASH	36,000	35,000	21,000	285	235	350	10,260	8,225	7,350
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	529,000	496,000	392,000	173	201	248	91,615	99,925	97,080

<sup>1/</sup> INDICATED.

ALFALFA SEED SUPPLY: UNITED STATES, 1978, 1979 AND 1980

STATE	1978	1979	1980 <sup>1/</sup>
	1,000 POUNDS		
PRODUCTION	91,615	99,925	97,080
FARM CARRYOVER <sup>2/</sup>	4,308	5,084	8,465
DEALER CARRYOVER	23,960	28,640	31,520
SUPPLY (PRODUCTION PLUS CARRYOVER)	119,883	133,649	137,065

<sup>1/</sup> INDICATED.

<sup>2/</sup> AS OF JUN 30TH INCLUDES GROWER-OWNED SEED STORED IN DEALER WAREHOUSES.