

# ALFALFA SEED

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## ALFALFA SEED CROP FORECAST UP 14 PERCENT

The 1979 production of alfalfa seed is forecast at 106 million pounds (47.9 thousand metric tons), 14 percent above last year. California, the Nation's leading alfalfa producer, is expecting a crop more than double that of the small one in 1978. More acreage and higher yields resulting from good harvest weather increased production. Idaho, the second largest producer, expects a crop 2 percent larger than last year. South Dakota and Washington expect production below last year. A dry spring combined with grasshopper damage reduced production in South Dakota. Pollination problems and water shortages during the growing season, followed by rains during harvest lowered production in Washington.

Acres for harvest are forecast at 526 thousand acres (213 thousand hectares), 1 percent below 1978. Yield per acre is expected to average 201 pounds, up 26 pounds from the 175 pound yield realized last year.

## CARRYOVER AND SUPPLY

The total supply of alfalfa seed for the 1979-80 crop year is indicated at 140 million pounds, 16 percent above last year. Farmer owned carryover on June 30, 1979 increased 47 percent and dealer owned inventories increased 20 percent compared with a year ago. Imports of alfalfa seed during the year ended June 30, 1979 totaled 189 thousand pounds, down sharply from the 777 thousand pounds imported a year earlier. Exports totaled 5597 metric tons (12.3 million pounds) compared with 7622 metric tons (16.8 million pounds) exported for the year ending June 30, 1978.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION  
1977, 1978 AND 1979

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1977	1978	1979 <sup>1/</sup>	1977	1978	1979 <sup>1/</sup>	1977	1978	1979 <sup>1/</sup>
	ACRES			POUNDS			T,000 POUNDS		
ARIZ <sup>2/</sup>	1,000			150			150		
CALIF	47,000	64,000	84,000	660	295	465	31,020	18,800	39,060
IDAHO	33,000	43,000	45,000	430	350	340	14,190	15,050	15,300
KANS	42,000	60,000	55,000	95	115	90	3,990	6,900	4,950
MONT	39,000	26,000	29,000	90	85	110	3,510	2,210	3,190
NEBR	28,000	32,000	29,000	75	75	65	2,100	2,400	1,885
NEV	15,500	17,000	18,000	520	365	375	8,060	6,205	6,750
N DAK	8,000	17,000	14,000	40	45	45	320	765	630
OKLA	32,000	55,000	55,000	140	145	125	4,480	7,975	6,875
OREG	13,000	14,000	15,000	470	345	330	6,110	4,830	4,950
S DAK	105,000	150,000	130,000	65	85	60	6,825	12,750	7,800
UTAH	14,000	15,000	17,000	260	290	275	3,640	4,350	4,675
WASH	31,000	36,000	35,000	410	285	270	12,710	10,260	9,450
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	408,500	529,000	526,000	238	175	201	97,105	92,495	105,515

<sup>1/</sup> INDICATED.

<sup>2/</sup> ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER THE 1977 CROP.

ALFALFA SEED SUPPLY: UNITED STATES, 1977, 1978 AND 1979

ITEM	1977	1978	1979 <sup>1/</sup>
	T,000 POUNDS		
PRODUCTION	2/97,105	92,495	105,515
FARM CARRYOVER <sup>3/</sup>	2/3,908	4,308	6,344
DEALER CARRYOVER	22,120	23,960	28,640
SUPPLY (PRODUCTION PLUS CARRYOVER)	2/123,133	120,763	140,499

<sup>1/</sup> INDICATED.

<sup>2/</sup> INCLUDES ARIZ, DISCONTINUED AFTER THE 1977 CROP.

<sup>3/</sup> AS OF JUNE 30TH. INCLUDES GROWER-OWNED SEED STORED IN DEALER WAREHOUSES.