

ALFALFA

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Statistical Reporting
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ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION DOWN

The 1976 U. S. alfalfa seed crop is expected to be 16 percent less than last year's crop. Production is anticipated to total 77.0 million pounds, compared with outputs of 91.9 million pounds in 1975 and 111.4 million in 1974 and would be the smallest crop since 1948. Production in the Nation's leading alfalfa seed producing State, California, is forecast at 27.9 million pounds, down 5 percent from a year ago. Crops in two other leading States, Idaho and Washington, are expected to be down 32 percent and 24 percent respectively.

Harvested acres are down 6 percent from last year and are at a record low level. However, much of the decline in production from last year is caused by lower yields, which averaged 29 pounds per acre less than last year. Low yields in the Northwestern States were caused by cool weather during pollination which restricted bee activity and thus reduced seed set. Wet weather in August and September delayed seed maturity. Sprouting and seed discoloration have made the amount of cleanout higher than normal.

Carryover of old-crop alfalfa seed on June 30, 1976 is estimated at 34.4 million pounds (27.6 million by dealers and 6.8 million by growers). This is a decline of 34 percent from last year (38.2 million pounds by dealers and 14.1 million by growers). The initial supply (*production plus carryover*) is indicated to be 111.4 million pounds, 23 percent less than a year earlier. Imports of alfalfa seed during the year ended June 30, 1976 totaled 110,500 pounds compared with 229,300 pounds the previous year. Exports for the same period were 16,660,000 pounds, compared with 13,403,000 pounds a year earlier.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION
1974, 1975 AND 1976

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	ACRES			POUNDS PER ACRE			1,000 POUNDS		
ARIZ	4,500	2,000	1,300	200	180	130	900	360	169
CALIF	66,000	51,000	49,000	495	575	570	32,670	29,325	27,930
IDAHO	38,000	35,000	30,000	480	455	360	18,240	15,925	10,800
KANS	40,000	43,000	40,000	85	95	115	3,400	4,090	4,600
MONT	30,000	12,000	18,000	85	80	100	2,550	960	1,800
NEBR	27,000	24,000	18,000	70	80	80	1,890	1,920	1,440
NEV	21,000	19,000	12,000	400	430	300	8,400	8,170	3,600
N DAK	6,000	5,000	6,500	40	40	45	240	200	293
OKLA	40,000	13,000	20,000	150	115	160	6,000	1,495	3,200
OREG	13,000	11,500	10,000	575	535	440	7,475	6,153	4,400
S DAK	108,000	80,000	81,000	65	60	65	7,020	4,800	5,265
UTAH	17,000	13,000	10,000	300	280	220	5,100	3,640	2,200
WASH	39,000	35,000	27,000	450	425	420	17,550	14,875	11,340
U S	449,500	343,500	322,800	248	268	239	111,435	91,913	77,037

1/ INDICATED.

ALFALFA SEED SUPPLY: UNITED STATES 1974, 1975 AND 1976

ITEM	1974	1975 <u>1/</u>	1976 <u>2/</u>
1,000 POUNDS			
PRODUCTION	111,435	91,913	77,037
FARM CARRYOVER	2,020	14,079	6,773
DEALER CARRYOVER	25,850	38,156	27,596
SUPPLY (PRODUCTION PLUS CARRYOVER)	139,305	144,148	111,406

1/ REVISED.

2/ INDICATED.