

SOUTH DAKOTA– New Alfalfa Trial for Northeast South Dakota

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A new alfalfa trial was developed and planted on June 7, 2018, at the Northeast Research Farm near South Shore, SD. This project is in collaboration with Valent U.S.A in Sioux Falls, SD. Two 20'x50' plots, side by side, were used to evaluate yield production with treated and non-treated Roundup Ready® Alfalfa. This was a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with 5 replicates in each plot. The treated-alfalfa main component was an endo-granular mycorrhizae. No cuttings were performed during the establishment year. Yield and quality will be evaluated in 2019.

Advantages of mycorrhizae in alfalfa:

1. Allows plants to draw more nutrients/water from soil, including P.
2. Results in vigorous and healthy plants.
3. Accelerates rooting.
4. Increases plant survival.
5. Increases drought tolerance and other stresses.
6. Enhances flowering.
7. Offers better yield production.
8. Reduces soil erosion.



New alfalfa plots after planting at Northeast Research Farm.



Roundup Ready Alfalfa growth at the Northeast Research Farm.