

Management Options Vary for Long-Awaited Genuity® Roundup Ready® Alfalfa

Randy Welch, CROPLAN GENETICS

Roundup Ready® alfalfa was thoroughly evaluated by the appropriate federal government agencies over a multi-year period and was found to be safe and approved for sale on January 27, 2011, when the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service granted the product a non-regulated status. As a result, alfalfa producers who plant CROPLAN GENETICS® Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa can look forward to increased yield potential and higher quality forage thanks to excellent season-long control of weeds.

"This is an exciting time for growers, because Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa can provide quicker and more reliable stand establishment, and thicker alfalfa stands from beginning to end," explains CROPLAN GENETICS® Alfalfa and Forage Agronomist Randy Welch. "Digestibility potential is also enhanced, as overall quality improves when weeds are removed."

Growers have the following options when introducing Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa to their acres – each of which can provide different strategic benefits. Welch encourages producers to consult their local AgriSolutions™ expert agronomist or CROPLAN GENETICS® Seed & Agronomy Advisor to ensure the best choice is made for their fields.

Direct Seed Alfalfa in Spring

Direct-seeded Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa can deliver quicker and thicker alfalfa stands, not to mention better quality forage. One option is to not include oats when planting the crop. The first glyphosate application should take place 30 days after seeding, or possibly sooner if more heat units have been accumulated than normal.

"The first glyphosate application will remove competitive weeds and any remaining cover crop," Welch says. "It will also eliminate null plants, which typically make up 4-6% of seeds."

The first crop of newly seeded alfalfa should be harvested around 60 days after planting. The second and following crops should be harvested every 30-35 days; several weed-free, high-quality cuttings can potentially be harvested each season.

Oat Cover Crop "Take-Out"

Growers who have highly erodible soils might want to consider planting oats along with Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa in those areas, as oat seedlings will provide immediate soil cover for the alfalfa.

"Producers should come back with a glyphosate application when the oats are about 6-12" tall, because the dead oats can provide excellent soil erosion control," Welch advises. "When this approach is used, plan on harvesting the first alfalfa crop around 70-80 days after seeding, with the second and following crops being harvested every 30-35 days."

"Clean-up" after Oatlage Harvest

On their most erodible soils, growers might consider applying glyphosate to oat stubble approximately 10-15 days after oatlage harvest. This is an excellent time to mix an insecticide and glyphosate in your tank. When taking this approach, weed-free feed can be harvested about 30-40 days after application.

Direct Seed Alfalfa in Late Summer

Another option is to seed Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa after winter wheat or other late summer harvested crops. In the Midwest, summer-seeded Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa should be planted in August.

"In this scenario, it's advisable to apply glyphosate ~10-15 days after weeds and volunteer plants emerge," Welch says. "As a result, a weed-free crop should be ready for harvest next spring."

One of the best performing Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa varieties for growers in the Midwest and East is CROPLAN GENETICS® Consistency 4.10 RR alfalfa, which features a great combination of disease resistance for the challenging soils found in these areas. In addition to rapid re-growth after each cutting and exceptional yield and forage quality potential, its Fall Dormancy (FD) of 4 and outstanding winterhardiness (WH) rating of 1.8 supports a fast start to your alfalfa stand every spring.

"Consistency 4.10 RR alfalfa provides dependable and consistent forage quality, excellent stem digestibility and excellent leaf

Genuity® Roundup Ready® Alfalfa Variety	Similar Conventional Variety
Graze N Hay 3.10 RR	Maxi Graze®
Maxi-Pro 3.10 RR	LegenDairy 5.0
Consistency 4.10 RR	Rebound 5.0
Denali 4.10 RR	Mountaineer 2.0
Transition 6.10 RR	Artesian Sunrise
Desert Sun 8.10 RR	Sun Quest™

The above chart lists varieties of Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa that are most comparable to conventional alfalfa varieties.

retention,” Welch says. “It’s an ideal choice for haylage or fairly aggressive hay harvest schedules.”

Another top variety is CROPLAN GENETICS® Maxi-Pro 3.10 RR alfalfa, which offers harvest flexibility, exceptional leaf retention and excellent stem digestibility where baled hay is required. It also has an exceptional disease resistance package and stand persistence for use in a wide range of growing conditions.

“Ideally adapted to 3-4 cut regions, Maxi-Pro 3.10 RR alfalfa gives producers a wider range of harvest flexibility and is especially useful when baled hay harvests are required,” Welch says. “It also excels as haylage for northern regions. The genetic family of this variety has developed a serious reputation of trend-setting quality and yield potential.”

CROPLAN GENETICS® Graze N Hay 3.10RR is designed for toughest-acre growing conditions of high traffic areas, grazing situations and dryland production.

“Graze N Hay 3.10RR alfalfa is an excellent variety choice where one to two cuttings of hay will be harvested mechanically, followed by grazing,” Welch adds. “It has exceptional forage quality because control of weeds can be accomplished, including troublesome winter annual weeds and cheat grass.”

Each of the aforementioned varieties of CROPLAN GENETICS® Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa seed is available with GroZone® seed treatment plus AgriSolutions™ ADVANCED COATING® Zn (CV) or standard Apron XL® fungicide plus Nitragin® Gold rhizobium bacteria (AN).

For customized assistance in determining which management plan and variety of Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa is best for your fields consult your local AgriSolutions™ expert agronomist or CROPLAN GENETICS® Seed & Agronomy Advisor. Attend your local Answer Plot® Knowledge Events this season to see how Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa performs in your area this season, and visit www.AnswerPlot.com to sign up for the free Answer Plot® Advisor e-newsletter.

**Randy Welch, National
Alfalfa Agronomist for
CROPLAN GENETICS®:
608-206-3859**



*Results may vary and are dependent on many factors including weather, application and management; therefore, results to be obtained, including but not limited to yields, financial performance, or profits, cannot be predicted or guaranteed by Winfield Solutions, LLC.

AgriSolutions™ and Sun Quest™ are trademarks and Answer Plot®, CROPLAN GENETICS®, Maxi Graze® and ADVANCED COATING® are registered trademarks of Winfield Solutions, LLC.

Genuity® and Roundup Ready® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC.

Apron XL® is a registered trademark of a Syngenta Group Company.

GroZone® is a registered trademark of Forage Genetics.

Nitragin® is a registered trademark of EMD Crop BioScience and/or its affiliates.