

MINNESOTA - Testing Alfalfa Varieties for Winter Survival

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The test developed by the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference was used to determine the winter survival potential of marketed alfalfa varieties. In a trial established in 2011 and 2012, seedling year defoliation was applied to test the winter survival of alfalfa varieties varying in fall dormancy and disease resistance. The winter of 2011-2012 was mild and resulted in little winterkill among alfalfas that included non-dormant varieties that do not normally survive. The trial is being repeated in 2012-2013 in MN and ND. In spring of 2013, it appears likely that differences in variety winter survival will be seen. This research was funded by the MN Ag. Exper. Station.