

Summer 2010



# the HAYMAKER

PROGRESS IN ALFALFA RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

## Supreme Court Delivers Good News on Roundup Ready<sup>®</sup> Alfalfa

On June 21, 2010, in a 7-1 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a lower court's order that had prohibited farmers from planting Roundup Ready alfalfa (RRA) since March 2007. Saying that the lower court "abused its discretion," this decision sends the case back to the U.S. District Court in California and to the USDA, where it will be decided what course of action is taken while the agency completes the court-mandated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on RRA. USDA had approved the use of RRA in 2005, but in 2007 a district court vacated this approval pending completion of a full EIS. The USDA is now finalizing the EIS; a draft of the EIS recommending deregulation of RRA was released for public comment in December 2009. Until the USDA makes a decision that enables the planting of RRA, farmers are still barred from seeding new acres to Roundup Ready Alfalfa. However, this Supreme Court ruling is good news for alfalfa growers and American farmers, since it confirms that future challenges to biotech approvals and products must be based on solid data and sound science.

This is the first time that the U.S. Supreme Court has heard a case on biotech crops, and this recent ruling reaffirms the USDA's leading role as the "experts" in the regulatory review and approval of new technologies that are needed to feed a growing global population. ■



## Win the Superbowl With W-L Alfalfa!

The World Forage Analysis Superbowl is held every Fall in conjunction with the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI (this year September 28–October 2, 2010). Over the past 14 years, W-L Research has provided cash awards to winning hay producers and dairy farmers who have won with W-L alfalfa varieties. If a grower/farmer wins this year's 27th annual World Forage Analysis Superbowl with a W-L alfalfa variety, the following cash award schedule applies:

**Grand Champion Win** = \$1,500 cash to winning grower

**Division Win** (Dairy Hay, Commercial Hay, Dairy Haylage, Commercial Baleage) = \$1,000 cash to winning grower

**Salesperson working with winning grower** = \$1,000 cash to salesperson

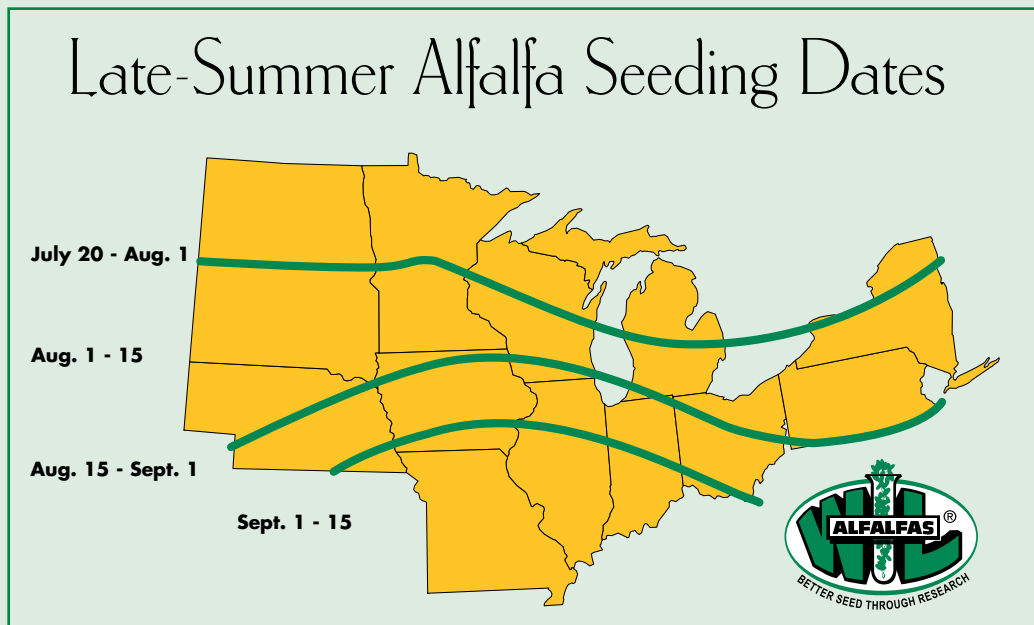
In addition to W-L's ongoing cash awards program, the 2010 Forage Superbowl organizers have announced that category winners will receive cash prizes—over \$20,000 in all! W-L is also proud to announce that we are the sponsors of the Champion Commercial Baleage category at this year's contest.

Samples for the 2010 Forage Superbowl can be submitted anytime up to September 2, 2010. Entry forms and instructions for this year's Superbowl are available by contacting W-L Research at 608-295-3566 (or [info@wlresearch.com](mailto:info@wlresearch.com)). ■



# Timely Seeding Delivers Better Stands, Higher Yields

Late-Summer seeding of alfalfa is an excellent option for producers in the Midwest and Northeast who wish to avoid the establishment year yield penalties (and weed issues) often associated with Spring-seeded alfalfa. Successful late-Summer seedings must be made in a timely fashion, at least six weeks before your first hard frost; eight weeks is better (see map with recommended late-summer seeding dates by region). Your goal is at least 6"-8" of growth on the new alfalfa seeding before the first killing frost. The payoff from timely late-Summer seedings is stronger seedling establishment, higher yields, and greater profitability for the life of the stand. ■



## Destination Denver: Alfalfa Intensive Training

The National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance has scheduled their next Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar for November 16-18, 2010 in Denver, CO. Taught by a team of four nationally recognized alfalfa experts, this year's Alfalfa Intensive Training promises to provide top-notch training for seed dealers, sales staff, consultants, large producers, and anyone who might benefit from significantly improving their alfalfa knowledge.

Topics covered include:

- Alfalfa genetics, varieties, variety selection, seed production
- Growth and development, soils, fertility, nitrogen fixation, stress, overwintering

- Diseases, insects, nematodes, and pest management
- Harvest management, drying, silage and hay preservation
- Forage quality, sampling, hay testing
- Marketing, economics, buying and selling hay
- Dairy, beef, and horse nutrition

Class size is limited for this training session, so early registration is recommended. For more information and details on how to register, go to [www.alfalfa.org](http://www.alfalfa.org). ■



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