



the HAYMAKER

PROGRESS IN ALFALFA RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

Waterman-Loomis Organics: A New Option for Organic Alfalfa Growers

For nearly 10 years, W-L Research has sold seed of improved alfalfa varieties to the certified organic hay market. Currently, organic alfalfa hay producers may establish their crop with standard (non-organic) alfalfa seed if quantities of said certified organic seed are unavailable. To date, this has been the case: W-L Research sells seed of improved alfalfas either untreated or treated only with OMRI-approved Nitragin Gold inoculant to organic growers, and they in turn are able to certify the alfalfa hay production off these fields as organic.

However, times are changing, and W-L Research is proud to announce a new line of elite, high-performance certified organic alfalfa seed, **Waterman-Loomis Organics**. No pesticides or synthetic fertilizers are used in the production of alfalfa seed that goes into the Waterman-Loomis Organics bag.



We currently have two elite, USDA-Certified Organic alfalfa seed products available:

- Certified Organic **WL 347LH**. One of our elite 6th Generation potato leafhopper resistant (85%) alfalfas, with outstanding yield potential (FD=4.0), high forage quality, excellent persistence, and a perfect disease resistance index of 30/30.
- Certified Organic **WL 625HQ**. Our highest-yielding (FD=9.2) nondormant HQ (high-quality selected) alfalfa with high resistance to all major disease, insect, and nematode pests that attack nondormant alfalfas.

Our mission at Waterman-Loomis Organics is to deliver Certified organic seed of the best-performing alfalfas currently available on the market. Give us a try! ■



Introducing WL 440HQ for 2009 Planting

W-L Research announces the release of WL 440HQ, a new intermediate-type (FD=6.0) alfalfa with exceptional yield potential and very broad adaptation. WL 440HQ offers a unique combination of high yield and high hay quality, producing outstanding per acre profitability when compared to the competition.

WL 440HQ offers the following advantages over competitive intermediate alfalfas:

- Very high yields under 5-7 cut harvest managements.
- A great choice for cash hay. WL 440HQ delivers very high %TDN numbers across a wide range of haying conditions.
- Proven ability to hold high feed value in the field over a wider range of maturities.

WL 440HQ delivers high forage quality and greater harvest flexibility with less risk of damage to hay and haylage when harvest is delayed.

- High resistance to all major pests that attack alfalfa, including high resistance (HR) to all three aphids and high resistance to both root knot and stem nematodes.
- Very fast recovery after cutting and superior standability encourages intensive harvest management.
- Dark green, fine-stemmed, and highly palatable.

Seed supplies of WL 440HQ will be limited for 2009 planting. Contact your local W-L alfalfa seed dealer soon if you want to try a few bags of this outstanding new release from W-L Research. ■



WL 440HQ BEATS THE COMPETITION!

Modesto, CA (2008)

VARIETY	YIELD (T/A)
WL 440HQ	7.55
Dura 512	7.31
CW 704	7.09
Amerileaf 721	6.97
HybriForce-620	6.72
Pioneer 58N57	6.53



W-L Beats HybriForce for Yield and Profitability

The release of hybrid alfalfa has generated some interest in the alfalfa community. Are these new hybrid alfalfas significantly higher yielding? Extensive testing in both University and private trials have shown HybriForce to yield well within the range of conventional alfalfas. In fact, conventional releases such as WL 357HQ, WL 363HQ, and WL 440HQ consistently out-yield HybriForce when compared across a wide range of soil types and cutting managements throughout the U.S. (see yield comparison table).

Clearly, elite conventional WL varieties consistently out-perform hybrid alfalfa (e.g. HybriForce) for both yield and profitability (considering the HQ quality advantage over hybrids) compared head-to-head across a wide range of growing conditions. It's time to move past the hype and recognize that elite conventional alfalfas like **WL 357HQ** still deliver the best yields (and value) for both dairy and hay producers nationwide. ■

WHERE'S THE HYBRID YIELD ADVANTAGE??

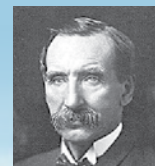
W-L VARIETY	DAIRYLAND "HYBRID" VARIETY	# TRIAL YEARS	W-L %YIELD ADVANTAGE*
WL 343HQ	HybriForce-400	38	13
WL 348AP	HybriForce-400	80	7
WL 357HQ	HybriForce-400	168	9
WL 357HQ	HybriForce-420	107	5
WL 363HQ	HybriForce-400	39	16
WL 440HQ	HybriForce-620	26	11
WL 530HQ	HybriForce-620	19	8

* Head-to-Head Yield Data collected from replicated, multi-location University and in-house trials.

W.D. Hoard: The Father of Alfalfa Culture

William Dempster Hoard, a former governor of Wisconsin, purchased a dairy farm near Ft. Atkinson, WI, in 1899 primarily to prove to University researchers that alfalfa was a valuable and profitable feed for dairy cattle. A substantial part of W.D. Hoard's career was devoted to the education of dairy farmers on how to successfully utilize alfalfa in their dairy operations. W.D. once said, "Dairy farmers certainly work hard enough, but they are using 15¢ of knowledge to do \$1,000 worth of business."

W.D. HOARD'S RULES FOR GROWING ALFALFA (circa 1902)



- Use rich land.
- Make a fine seedbed 8" deep.
- Choose a field with the water table 15-20' below the surface (alfalfa hates "wet feet" and alfalfa roots will easily reach this depth).
- Apply lime and potash fertilizer (alfalfa flourishes where lime dust falls from nearby roads).
- Seed at 30 lbs. per acre.
- Harvest the grain nurse crop for hay when it heads out—no later!
- Never let a hoof on the field. Grazing will bruise the alfalfa crowns.
- Take first cutting about May 25 and other cuttings every 4-6 weeks.
- Curing hay is a "hard row to hoe." Hay cocks should be covered with canvas whenever possible.
- Rest alfalfa in the Fall if you want the crop to work for you next year. ■

