

# Maryland Alfalfa Management Calendar

(For Central and Southern Maryland and Eastern Shore)

## AUGUST

### Management Considerations

#### New Late Summer Seedings:

- Adequate lime and fertilizer applications must have been made to previous crops in rotation.
- Inoculate seed using sugar-water solution.
- Double check seeding equipment for proper seeding depth and rate.
- Apply starter fertilizer—15 to 20 lb N/A along with 20 to 40 lb  $P_2O_5/A$  is beneficial to establishment, especially if banding equipment is available.
- No-till into small grain stubble, Aug. 10 to Sept. 10.
- Apply second application of Gramoxone Extra immediately after seeding. First application would have been made 7 to 10 days after grain harvest or when weeds and volunteer grain had germinated.
- Monitor every 2 to 3 days for seedling emergence and development during the first two weeks after seeding. Then monitor weekly for weed, insect and disease problems.

#### Established Stand:

- Continue weekly monitoring schedule for potato leafhopper through mid-August.
- Fourth cutting. Record date that each field is cut.
- Take plant analysis sample to help monitor fertility program.
- Immediately after harvest, apply second half of estimated fertilizer requirements based on up-dated yield goals and soil fertility levels.
- Take stand counts.
- Scout for insect, disease or weak stand problem areas. Dig roots to help identify problems.
- Record observations on each field.

### **Alfalfa Management Project August Activities**

- Hold an evening field meeting.
- Visit one or two members' high yield and test areas.
- Have in-field discussion time to share experiences.
- Special training on fall harvest management.
- Review late summer seeding techniques.
- Project members bring plant samples for analysis.
- Plan a family cook-out/picnic.