

1/11/10

This is the time of year to apply grass and weed herbicides to dormant or semi dormant alfalfa.

The most common herbicide that will be used for this purpose will probably be Velpar Alfamax, a combination of Velpar and Karmex.

The most common rate for this treatment will be 1 bag of Velpar AlfaMax Gold to 22 acres with an additional 1/2 lbs. of Karmex added. This combination will control winter grasses such as cheat, rescue grass, etc. as well as winter annual weeds. The addition of the 1/2 lbs. of Karmex should extend the control of pig weeds, and kochia through the 2nd cutting.

This dormant treatment cannot be applied to first year alfalfa, it must be at least one year old, have at least 1% organic matter, needs rainfall for activation, and needs to be completed by the middle of February. Will be 16 to 17 dollars/acre applied.

#### **Serious About Alfalfa Production**

- 1.) A 5 ton/acre growing season yield of alfalfa removes 50-60 lbs. of phosphorous (P)
- 2.) That same 5 ton/acre crop removed 250 lbs. of potassium (K)
- 3.) Soil Ph must be above 6.2 to ensure an environment favorable for nitrogen-fixing bacteria. (That is what legumes do)
- 4.) A soil Ph of 5.5 can reduce alfalfa production by 1/2 (50%)
- 5.) 92 percent of soil samples for alfalfa production sent to the OSU lab in 2000 were deficient in lime (Ph), (P), or (K).
- 6.) 65% of the 92% were deficient in 2 of the 3 areas.

Fertility issues maybe costing producers tonnage and money. High production alfalfa takes inputs. A soil sample of the alfalfa field would give the status of the Ph, P and K and would be a valuable tool for addressing these issues.

Call with questions.

Kim