

# **ALFALFA**

# **VARIETY TRIALS**

**Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station — University of Minnesota**  
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This is a report on results of public and private alfalfa tests conducted by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. It was prepared by Neal P. Martin, extension agronomist-forages (612-625-3747; <marti007@tc.umn.edu>), and Duane A. Schriever, agronomy and plant genetics scientist (612-625-5772; <schri001@tc.umn.edu>), Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

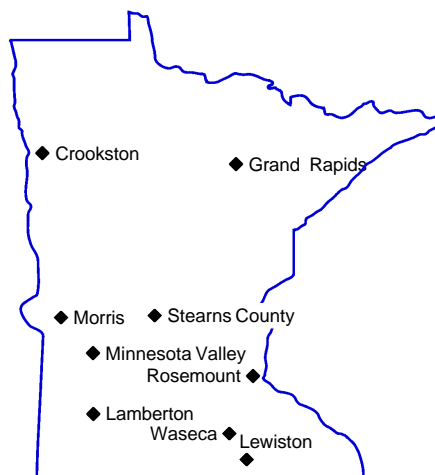
## **Evaluation, Site and Presentation Criteria**

Successful production of alfalfa depends on selecting the best varieties for a particular farm. Varieties are compared for yield in trial plots on Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station fields at branch stations across Minnesota, on fields of cooperators at Lewiston, in Stearns County and along the Minnesota River Valley, and at two additional locations in Wisconsin (Arlington and Lancaster) for evaluations of winter survivability. Tests at Waseca were discontinued after 1994 and replaced by a southeastern Minnesota site in Winona County. Tests were discontinued at Crookston after 1995 and replaced by a Stearns County site.

All evaluation plots are handled so that factors affecting yield, winter survival and forage quality are as nearly the same for all varieties as is possible. Each seeding year in any location counts as one test site.

Test results for varieties available in Minnesota, old or new, are published as accumulated performance years averaged as a percent of check varieties over locations representative of risk of winter injury in specific regions of Minnesota.

Test data from experimental seed is no longer presented in this report, as data from tests on commercial seed is sufficient to replace it.



***Locations where alfalfa trials were conducted for this report.***

## **Variety Classifications**

Alfalfa varieties are classified as dormant varieties developed to over-winter in Minnesota conditions, or non-dormant varieties not expected to overwinter in Minnesota. Disease