

History of Alfalfa

1. Alfalfa was brought to the New World by emigrates from the Middle East.
2. Alfalfa was first introduced into North and South America by Spanish Conquistadors in the 1500's to feed their horses.
3. The Romans (200 BC), Chinese (120 BC), and Spanish Conquistadors (1500's) spread alfalfa around the world as they conquered New territories?
4. The oldest known references to alfalfa were from these two Countries, *Turkey (1300 BC), Babylonia (700 BC)*.
5. The oldest known name for an alfalfa "variety" in the U.S. was Named "Grimm" after the German immigrant that grew it in Minnesota in 1857.
6. The Spotted Alfalfa Aphid and the Blue Alfalfa Aphid are **NOT** native to North America. Spotted Alfalfa Aphid arrived in the U.S. in the 1950's and the Blue Alfalfa Aphid in the 1970'S.
7. Roswell, New Mexico known internationally as the reputed site of an alien spaceship landing is also the first location in the U.S. where the spotted alfalfa aphid was discovered in the 1950's.
8. Alfalfa is known in many other parts of the world by the name "Lucerne". Europe and Australia both use the name "Lucerne" for alfalfa
9. The variety "Ladak" was an introduction from India and first used in the United States in the year 1910
10. **"Ranger"** alfalfa was released in 1940.
11. **"Vernal"** alfalfa was first released over a half century ago in 1953.
12. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were both known to have alfalfa on their farms.
13. Many parts of the world graze alfalfa fields instead of cutting it for hay. It has been estimated that **Argentina grazes 85%** of its alfalfa fields.
14. There are 79 Million acres of cultivated alfalfa around the world.
15. In 1981, one-Third (26 Million acres) of the cultivated alfalfa in the World was grown in the United States.
16. The Oldest recorded reference indicates that alfalfa was being used as forage, *3300 years ago*.
17. Verticillium wilt was not discovered in the U.S. until the 1970's.