

Rugged Alfalfa is a Traffic-Compaction Tolerant Alfalfa

Why is it important?

1. All alfalfa varieties do not persist or yield the same under wheel-compaction tolerance

- 40% of field is damaged
- 16 -26% yield loss in traffic areas
- Poor Quality in Traffic Damage Areas

2. Selection for traffic-Compaction tolerance results in the development of new alfalfa varieties with unique plant types. With Larger Roots, More crown buds per plant, more stems per crown, more leaf mass per plant.

3. University of California data indicates that Traffic-Compaction Tolerant varieties, such as "Rugged" yield more and have higher quality in the wheel tracks.

5. Traffic-compaction varieties such as ("Rugged Alfalfa), have demonstrated excellent quality and animal performance in replicated trials.

6. Traffic-Compaction alfalfa varieties (Rugged Alfalfa) have increased genetic resistance to crown rots. Selection for increased survival under traffic resulted in increased resistance to Phoma Crown Rot.

7. Traffic tolerant alfalfa varieties ("Rugged Alfalfa") were developed from elite parental lines and had excellent disease and insect resistance as well as other agronomic traits.

8. Traffic Tolerant varieties have higher root reserves than most varieties.

9. Traffic tolerant varieties will with-stand more abuse from mismanagement, "Rugged" is more tolerant to frequent cutting schedules, traffic, grazing, heavy manure applications and late fall cuttings.

10. Traffic-Compaction varieties return more nitrogen to the soil than conventional alfalfa varieties. Replicated scientific studies have shown that the enhanced crown and root system of traffic tolerant varieties (i.e. Rugged Alfalfa) has increased ground Nitrogen to subsequent crops. (100-200 lbs Nitrogen)