



Alfalfa Seed 2012

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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2012 Acreage, Production, Value, and Leaf Cutter Bees

Released: February 15, 2013

Alfalfa seed production in Montana for 2012 was estimated at 2.82 million pounds, up 78,000 pounds from last year's production estimate. The harvested acreage was 7,000 acres, up 400 acres from 2011. The average yield was 403 pounds per acre, down from 415 pounds in 2011. Irrigated fields saw significantly better yields when compared with non-irrigated fields; this year's irrigated yield was 600 pounds per acre, while the non-irrigated yield was 89 pounds per acre.

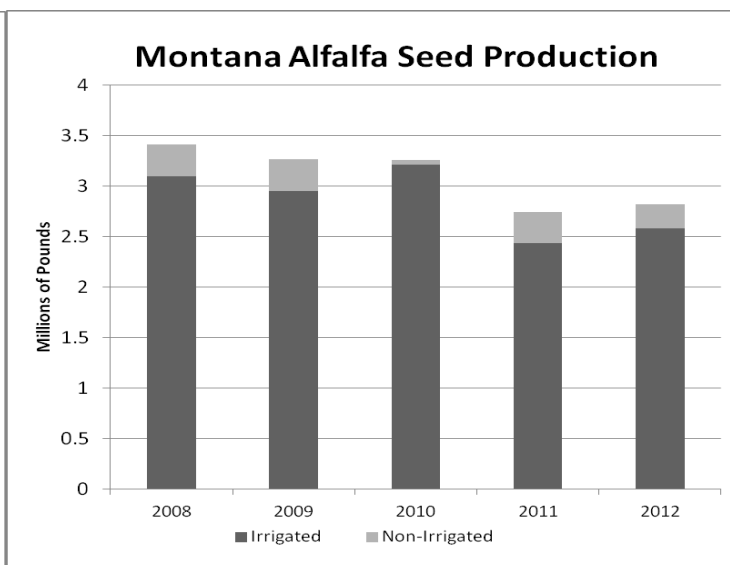
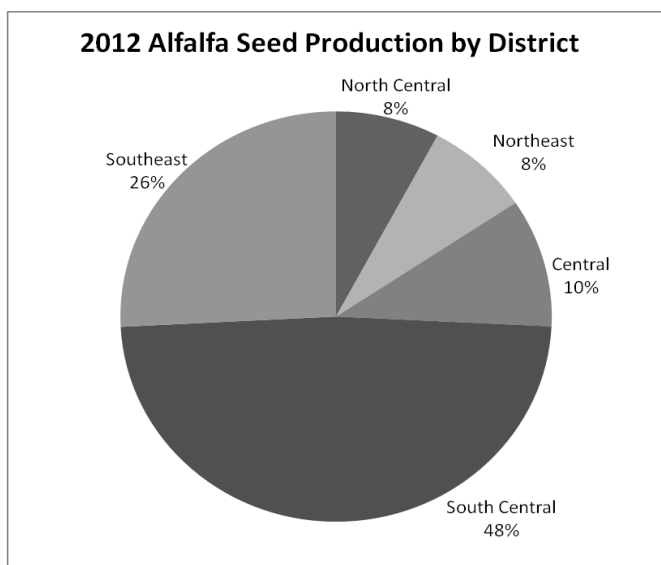
Producers who used leaf cutter bees used an average of 3.3 gallons of bees per acre, unchanged from the rate of bees used in 2011. Leaf cutter bees were used on 95 percent of the reported irrigated acreage this year compared to 74 percent last year.

Proprietary varieties made up 53.5 percent of this year's production, while common varieties accounted for 46.5 percent. Of the proprietary varieties cleaned in 2012, 100 percent of the seed cleaned was certified.

The average price received for the 2012 crop was \$2.11 per pound, up 9 cents from last year's average price.

Montana Leaf Cutter Bees 2009-2012

Year	Total	Irrigated	
	Gallons of Bees per Acre	Percent of Acreage	Gallons Used per Acre
2009	3.5	100%	3.4
2010	3.3	97%	3.4
2011	3.3	74%	3.5
2012	3.3	95%	3.4



Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2012

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	700	323	226,000	500	395	198,000	200	140	28,000
Northeast	300	503	151,000	300	503	151,000	--	--	--
Central	500	586	293,000	500	585	293,000	--	--	--
South Central	2,800	501	1,403,000	2,300	600	1,380,000	500	45	23,000
Southeast	2,700	277	747,000	700	795	557,000	2,000	95	190,000
Montana	7,000	403	2,820,000	4,300	600	2,580,000	2,700	89	240,000

Districts with no value have either limited reported acreage or have been confided to prevent the disclosure of individual information.

Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2011

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	900	325	293,000	900	325	293,000	--	--	--
Northeast	500	550	275,000	500	550	275,000	--	--	--
Central	600	348	209,000	300	475	143,000	300	220	66,000
South Central	2,600	575	1,495,000	2,600	575	1,495,000	--	--	--
Southeast	2,000	235	470,000	600	375	225,000	1,400	175	245,000
Montana	6,600	415	2,742,000	4,900	496	2,431,000	1,700	183	311,000

Districts with no value have either limited reported acreage or have been confided to prevent the disclosure of individual information.

Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value for Montana from 2002-2012

Year	TOTAL					IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total Production	Price per Pound	Total Value	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total Production	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total Production
		Pounds					Pounds			Pounds	
2002	6,700	296	1,980,000	\$1.15	\$2,277,000	5,000	370	1,848,000	1,700	78	132,000
2003	6,200	335	2,075,000	\$1.01	\$2,095,750	4,100	460	1,886,000	2,100	90	189,000
2004	5,800	382	2,214,000	\$0.99	\$2,191,860	3,900	532	2,075,000	1,900	73	139,000
2005	6,100	413	2,519,000	\$1.13	\$2,846,470	5,100	450	2,295,000	1,000	224	224,000
2006	10,700	399	4,270,000	\$1.13	\$4,825,100	6,500	518	3,367,000	4,200	215	903,000
2007	12,200	360	4,392,000	\$1.34	\$5,885,280	7,000	533	3,729,000	5,200	127	661,000
2008	8,900	383	3,407,000	\$1.95	\$6,643,650	6,100	507	3,093,000	2,800	112	314,000
2009	7,100	459	3,261,000	\$1.94	\$6,326,340	5,900	499	2,947,000	1,200	262	314,000
2010	7,000	465	3,258,000	\$1.66	\$5,408,280	6,600	486	3,208,000	400	125	50,000
2011	6,600	415	2,742,000	\$2.02	\$5,538,840	4,900	496	2,431,000	1,700	183	311,000
2012	7,000	403	2,820,000	\$2.11	\$5,952,310	4,300	600	2,580,000	2,700	89	240,000

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Ron Schumacher
Statistician

Steve Anderson
Director

The Alfalfa Seed Survey is funded by the Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee in cooperation with the Montana Dept. of Agriculture.