



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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## 2014 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Alfalfa seed production in Montana for 2014 is estimated at 3.40 million pounds, up 75,000 pounds from last year's production estimate. Harvested acreage totaled 10,000 acres, an increase of 600 acres from 2013. Of that, 7,000 harvested acres were irrigated, compared with 3,000 non-irrigated acres. On average, producers harvested 340 pounds of alfalfa seed per acre, down from 353 pounds in 2013. The irrigated yield, at 440 pounds per acre, was unchanged from last year, while the non-irrigated yield increased from 100 pounds per acre in 2013 to 105 pounds per acre in 2014.

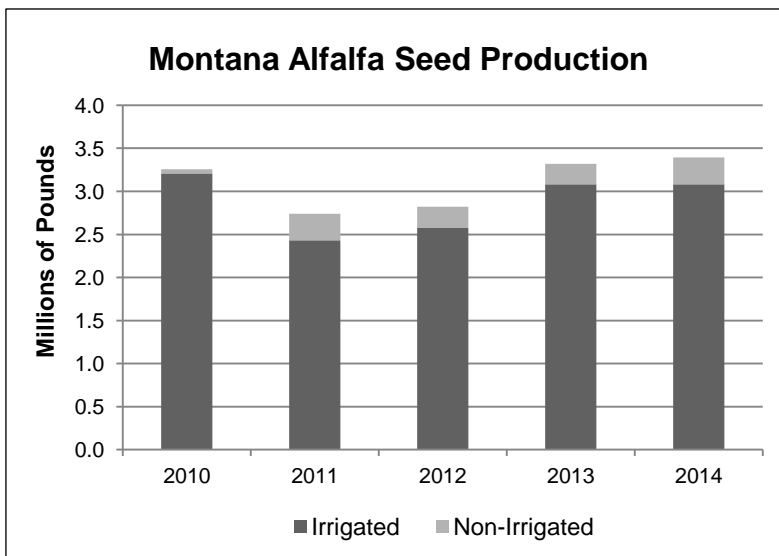
Producers who used leaf cutter bees used an average of 3.1 gallons of bees per acre, a decrease of 0.5 gallon from the rate of bees used in 2013. Leaf cutter bees were used on 90 percent of the reported irrigated acreage this year, compared with 82 percent last year.

Proprietary varieties of alfalfa seed made up 73.1 percent of production in 2014, while common varieties accounted for 26.9 percent. Of the proprietary varieties cleaned, 5.8 percent of the seed cleaned was certified.

The average price received for the 2014 crop was \$2.36 per pound, up \$0.82 from last year's average price.

**Montana Leaf Cutter Bees 2011-2014**

Year	Total	Irrigated	
	Gallons of Bees per Acre	Percent of Acreage	Gallons Used per Acre
2011	3.3	74%	3.5
2012	3.3	95%	3.4
2013	3.6	82%	2.7
2014	3.1	90%	3.1



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**Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value for Montana from 2003-2014 <sup>1/</sup>**

Year	TOTAL					IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total	Price/Pound	Total Value	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total
		Pounds					Pounds			Pounds	
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	4,391,000	\$1.34	\$5,883,940	7,000	533	3,731,000	5,200	127	660,000
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	3,258,000	\$1.94	\$6,320,520	5,900	499	2,944,000	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	2,741,000	\$2.02	\$5,536,820	4,900	496	2,430,000	1,700	183	311,000
2012	7,000	403	2,820,000	\$2.11	\$5,950,200	4,300	600	2,580,000	2,700	89	240,000
2013	9,400	353	3,320,000	\$1.54	\$5,112,800	7,000	440	3,080,000	2,400	100	240,000
2014	10,000	340	3,395,000	\$2.36	\$8,012,200	7,000	440	3,080,000	3,000	105	315,000

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2014 <sup>1/</sup>**

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
Northwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Central	700	331	232,000	700	331	232,000	--	--	--
Northeast	400	213	85,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Southwest	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
South Central	3,700	527	1,950,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Southeast	2,700	215	580,000	900	439	395,000	1,800	103	185,000
Other	2,500	219	548,000	5,400	454	2,453,000	1,200	108	130,000
<b>Montana</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>3,395,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>3,080,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>315,000</b>

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

(D) - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations

**Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2013 <sup>1/</sup>**

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North West	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Northeast	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	--	--	--
Central	1,100	542	596,000	1,100	542	596,000	--	--	--
Southwest	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
South Central	3,700	335	1,238,000	3,000	380	1,140,000	700	140	98,000
Southeast	2,800	307	860,000	1,400	534	748,000	1,400	80	112,000
Other	1,800	348	626,000	1,500	397	596,000	300	100	30,000
<b>Montana</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>3,320,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>3,080,000</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>240,000</b>

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

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