



# Alfalfa Seed 2011

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture  
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## *2011 Acreage, Production, Value, and Leaf Cutter Bees*

Released: February 14, 2012

Alfalfa seed production in Montana for 2011 was estimated at 2.74 million pounds, down 516,000 pounds from last year's production estimate. The harvested acreage decreased to 6,600, down 400 acres from 2010. The estimated average yield decreased to 415 pounds per acre, down from 465 pounds in 2010. Irrigated fields saw significantly better yields when compared with non-irrigated fields; this year's irrigated yield was 496 pounds per acre, while the non-irrigated yield was 183 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 2010. Leaf cutter bees were used on 74% of the reported irrigated acreage this year compared to 97% last year.

Proprietary varieties made up 40.3% of this year's production, while common varieties accounted for 59.7%. Of the proprietary varieties cleaned in 2011, 85% of the seed cleaned was certified.

The average price received for the 2011 crop was \$2.02 per pound, up 36 cents from last year's average price.

**Montana Leaf Cutter Bees 2008-2011**

| Year | Total                    | Irrigated          |                       |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|      | Gallons of Bees per Acre | Percent of Acreage | Gallons Used per Acre |
| 2008 | 3.2                      | 85%                | 3.2                   |
| 2009 | 3.5                      | 100%               | 3.4                   |
| 2010 | 3.3                      | 97%                | 3.4                   |
| 2011 | 3.3                      | 74%                | 3.5                   |

**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        |
| <b>Montana</b> | <b>6,600</b> | <b>415</b> | <b>2,742,000</b> | <b>4,900</b> | <b>496</b> | <b>2,431,000</b> | <b>1,700</b>  | <b>183</b> | <b>311,000</b> |

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, 2010**

| District       | TOTAL        |            |                  | IRRIGATED    |            |                  | NON-IRRIGATED |            |               |
|----------------|--------------|------------|------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
|                | Acres        | Yield      | Production       | Acres        | Yield      | Production       | Acres         | Yield      | Production    |
|                |              | Pounds     |                  |              | Pounds     |                  |               | Pounds     |               |
| North Central  | 800          | 361        | 289,000          | 800          | 361        | 289,000          | --            | --         | --            |
| Northeast      | 600          | 527        | 316,000          | 600          | 526        | 316,000          | --            | --         | --            |
| Central        | 200          | 360        | 72,000           | 200          | 360        | 72,000           | --            | --         | --            |
| South Central  | 4,300        | 525        | 2,258,000        | 4,300        | 525        | 2,258,000        | --            | --         | --            |
| Southeast      | 1,100        | 294        | 323,000          | 700          | 390        | 273,000          | 400           | 125        | 50,000        |
| <b>Montana</b> | <b>7,000</b> | <b>465</b> | <b>3,258,000</b> | <b>6,600</b> | <b>486</b> | <b>3,208,000</b> | <b>400</b>    | <b>125</b> | <b>50,000</b> |

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 2001-2011**

| 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 |                  |
| 2001 | 9,000           | 367    | 3,300,000        | \$1.27          | \$4,191,000 | 6,700           | 477    | 3,199,000        | 2,300           | 44     | 101,000          |
| 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          |

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