The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station will accept proprietary varieties and experimental strains of alfalfa for evaluation at three locations in 2015. The trials are designed for high yield, utilizing all factors to maximize yield under natural rainfall. Only varieties resistant to bacterial wilt will be accepted.

1. **Locations.** Michigan State University Research Farm at East Lansing. Trials are intensively managed for high yields with high fertility using a 4-cut system.

   Michigan State University Lake City Research Center, 130 miles north of East Lansing. Winter temperatures at Lake City are considerably lower than at East Lansing. The growing season typically allows for three cuttings.

   Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center at Chatham, approximately 300 miles north of East Lansing. Chatham has colder winters than Lake City, but with more snow. Winter-hardiness and persistence are important at Chatham. The growing season typically allows for three cuttings.

2. **Description of Trials.** Trials are seeded with a five-row nursery seeder with six-inch spaces between rows in plots 3 feet wide and at least 20 feet long (generally 22-25 feet). A minimum of four replications is used. Plots are harvested with a Carter self-propelled forage flail harvester. Four cuttings in the year after seeding are normally taken at East Lansing. Three cuttings are normally taken at Lake City and at Chatham from early/mid June to Oct. 1. Insecticides are applied when necessary to prevent yield reduction from alfalfa weevil (late May to early June) or potato leafhopper (June 15-September 15).

   Standard procedures for determining dry matter yield are used. Plots will be harvested for at least three years after the seeding year unless stands are injured by uncontrollable causes. Preferably, alfalfa will be seeded in the spring and harvested one to three times in the seeding year. Herbicides are used for weed control during the establishment year. Glyphosate will be applied to varieties entered in the Roundup Ready tests to control weeds and to eliminate the small percentage of “null” plants that lack the Roundup Ready trait. Seeding may be delayed until late July or early August to achieve best results in stand establishment.

   Data on stand longevity, disease reaction, and maturity will be obtained when appropriate. Michigan State University will conduct the trials in a professional manner, but assumes no financial liability for failure to obtain stands or loss of stands due to uncontrollable conditions.

3. **Eligibility of Entrants.** Private developers or merchandisers of alfalfa varieties or other Agricultural Experiment Stations may enter varieties or experimental strains. The developing firm (unit) or merchandiser will make application for entry/company.

4. **Rejection.** Any entry may be rejected if:

   (1) The trial is cancelled. A minimum of 10 paid entries (excluding check varieties) will be required at a location. If 10 entries are not received, payment will be returned.
   (2) There is misrepresentation.
   (3) Seed arrives too late for planting.
   (4) Adequate seed is not available.
   (5) Seed is a blend.
5. **Entry Fee.**
Yield comparisons at East Lansing, Lake City, and Chatham
$600.00 per variety per test location entered.

Make checks payable to Michigan State University/Alfalfa and send to
Dr. Kim Cassida or Joe Paling, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, Michigan State University, 1066 Bogue Street, East Lansing, MI 48824.

6. **Deadline for Entry.**

The applications must be in the possession of Dr. Kim Cassida (517) 355-0278 Cassida@msu.edu or Joe Paling (517) 355-2287, FAX (517) 353-3515, Paling@msu.edu, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, 1066 Bogue Street, 286 Plant and Soil Science Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824, by April 1, 2015.

7. **Seed Required.** Seed must be received by April 15, 2015. Arrangements may be made with MSU to deliver commercial seed through local dealers, distributors, or other sources.
Released varieties: 200 grams of seed per entry for each location. Seed for released varieties is to be from a commercial source. Seed will be inoculated with Rhizobium at MSU prior to planting.

Experimentals: 100 grams per trial is adequate. Seed treated with a fungicide i.e. Apron will be accepted.
Seed will be inoculated with Rhizobium at MSU prior to planting.

8. **Publication.** Each entrant will receive a yearly summary of the data in November. The yearly summaries will be published in the Michigan Farm News. Complete test results will be published by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station or the Michigan State University Extension Service and will be posted on the MSU Forage Connection website http://www.varietytrials.msu.edu/forage.
Submit one form for each variety or entry and send to the address below by April 1, 2015. Seed of released varieties (200 grams per location from a commercial source) and experimental entries (100 grams per location) should be received by April 15, 2015. Only genetically reproducible seed will be accepted. Blends will not be accepted.

1. Company _____________________________________________________________
   Contact person ___________________________ Marketer ____________________________
   Email ________________________________________________________________

2. Address ______________________________________________________________
   City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip _______________
   Phone (_____ ) _____________________ Fax (_____ ) _________________________

3. Name or number of entry ______________________________________________
   (Please indicate name desired when data are reported)

4. Brief description ______________________________________________________
   Is this a commercially released variety? Yes No

Please list any addition e-mail addresses you would like the results sent to:
_________________________________________________________

Date of Seed Test ____________________________
Purity ____________________________
Germination, quick ____________________________
Germination, hard ____________________________
Germination, total ____________________________
Scarified - yes or no (circle on)

Disease Resistance

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East Lansing Standard ____________________________
East Lansing Roundup Ready _______________________
Lake City Standard _____________________________
Lake City Roundup Ready _________________________
Chatham Standard ________________________________
Chatham Roundup Ready ____________________________
Total Locations ______ * 600.00 = _______

Payable to Michigan State University/Alfalfa: ATTN: Dr Kim Cassida or Joe Paling
Forage Testing, 1066 Bogue Street, A286 Plant and Soil Science Building
Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science, East Lansing, MI 48824