



ALFALFA MANAGEMENT CALENDAR for MICHIGAN

Date	Regions of Michigan			
	Southern Counties (Kalamazoo-Washtenaw)	Central Counties (Ottawa-Huron)	North Central Counties (Missaukee-Ogemaw)	Tip of the Mitt & U.P. (Alpena-Menominee)
1-Apr				
8-Apr	apply spring fertilizer as soon as can get on field	apply spring fertilizer as soon as can get on field	apply spring fertilizer as soon as can get on field	apply spring fertilizer as soon as can get on field
15-Apr				
22-Apr				
29-Apr				
6-May	begin scouting weevils ²			
13-May		begin scouting weevils ²		
20-May	FIRST CUT ¹		begin scouting weevils ²	begin scouting weevils ²
27-May		FIRST CUT ¹		
3-Jun	begin scouting leafhopper ²		FIRST CUT ¹	FIRST CUT ¹
10-Jun		begin scouting leafhopper ²		
17-Jun	SECOND CUT			
24-Jun	apply fungicide ³	SECOND CUT	begin scouting leafhopper ²	begin scouting leafhopper ²
1-Jul		apply fungicide ³	SECOND CUT	
8-Jul				
15-Jul	THIRD CUT		apply fungicide ³	
22-Jul	apply fungicide ³	THIRD CUT		SECOND CUT date varies by weather and soil type
29-Jul		apply fungicide ³		
5-Aug				
12-Aug	FOURTH CUT		THIRD CUT date varies by weather and soil type	
19-Aug	apply fungicide ³	FOURTH CUT		Avoid cutting when temperatures support fall regrowth apply fall fertilizer
26-Aug				
2-Sep				
9-Sep	FIFTH CUT			
16-Sep	Avoid cutting when temperatures support fall regrowth apply fall fertilizer	Avoid cutting when temperatures support fall regrowth apply fall fertilizer	Avoid cutting when temperatures support fall regrowth apply fall fertilizer	
23-Sep				
30-Sep				
7-Oct			FOURTH CUT?	THIRD CUT?
14-Oct				
21-Oct				
28-Oct	SIXTH CUT?	FIFTH CUT?		
4-Nov				
11-Nov				
18-Nov				

¹ See MSU Enviroweather (<https://enviroweather.msu.edu/>) for a Growing Degree Day (GDD) calculator to help pinpoint timing of first cut.

² See MSU Enviroweather (<https://enviroweather.msu.edu/>) for alfalfa weevil and potato leafhopper prediction tools.

³ Fungicide application according to label instructions can sometimes help retain leaves in summer harvests when conditions are damp.

Kim Cassida, Jim Islieb, Phil Kaatz, Kathy Lee, Jerry Lindquist, and Marilyn Thelen

Variability in soil types and the influence of the Great Lakes on local weather and climate make blanket alfalfa management recommendations for Michigan challenging. This calendar is intended as a rough guide to typical dates for management of established alfalfa stands across the different regions of Michigan. Adjustments should be made for your local conditions as needed.