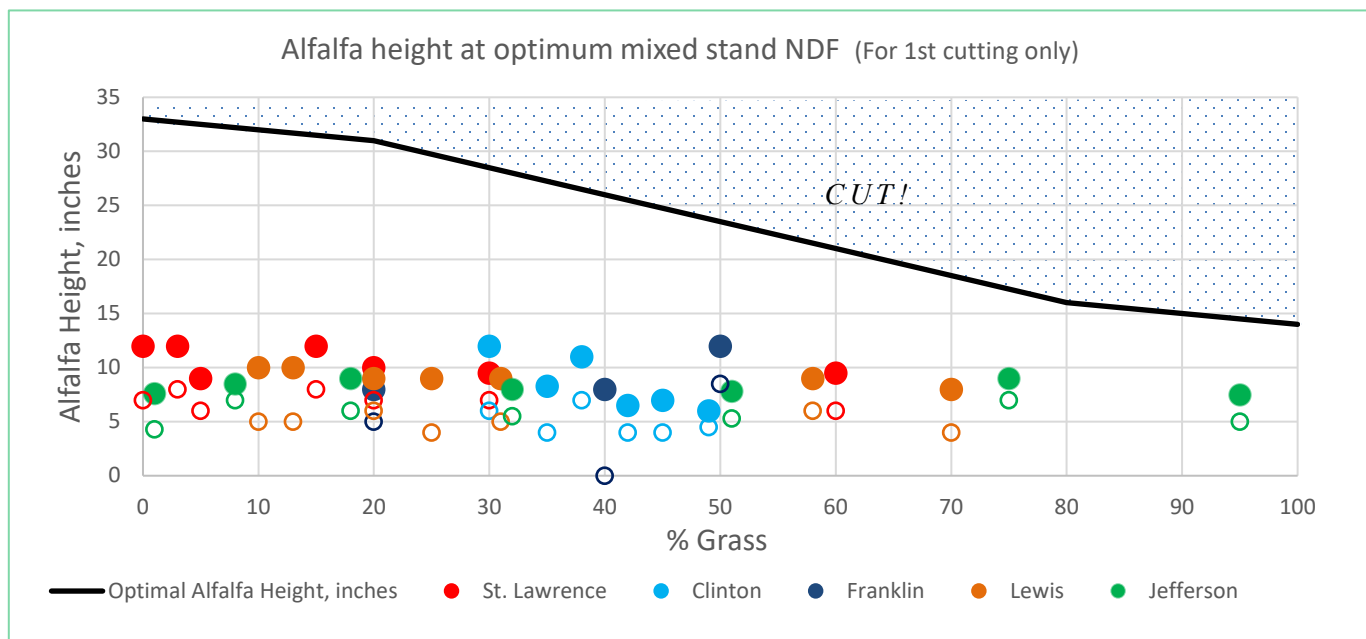


2022 North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa-Grass Progress Report

May 11, 2022 Report



Check individual fields!

Notice the differences among these monitored fields. (Open circles show previous week's height for comparison.)

It is important to get out and measure alfalfa heights in your own fields to help judge rate of growth and maturity for best timing of 1st cutting.

Refer to table on page 2 for detailed information on each site.

Fields on the graph with 0" alfalfa height have been mowed.

The *North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa-Grass Progress Report* is a Cornell Cooperative Extension project. Data collection by L Ferlito, M Hunter, A Jantzi, M Spence, J Lawrence, A Wilder, J Tucker, K Sample, E Bever, J Krauss, and K O'Neil.

Goal % NDF - NDF (Neutral Detergent Fiber) content is the best predictor of forage quality for lactating dairy cows. NDF content of standing first cutting alfalfa and grasses is easily predicted by alfalfa height. The relationship between NDF content in an alfalfa-grass mix and alfalfa height only works for first cutting. Second and 3rd cuttings should simply be taken according to the calendar - at 28 to 35 day intervals.

100% Grass - Goal NDF (on a dry matter basis) is 50% (target range 48-55). Tallest alfalfa height will be 14-16 inches.

100% Alfalfa - Goal NDF is 40% (target range 39-43). Tallest alfalfa height will be 28-30 inches.

Mixed stand - for a 50:50 alfalfa:grass stand, the goal NDF is 43%. Tallest alfalfa height will be 22-23 inches.

Begin harvest early enough so that most of your crop is harvested within the "ideal" range. Typically NDF increases about 0.5 to 0.7/day for alfalfa and about 0.8 to 1.2/day for grass. Expect the lower end of that range in cooler weather and the higher end in warm.

Weekly Tips and Observations

- Alfalfa growth remains a bit sluggish this spring, though this week should help it to progress. Average height was 9.1" this week, up 3" over last week. Accumulation of GDD₄₁ so far this spring is a bit behind 15-year averages. Over the past 5 years, alfalfa heights during this first week of May have averaged 11.7", 12.4", 9.8", 6.8", and 13.8".
- GDD₄₁ remain below the 15-year average across the NNY region, but they are forecast to catch up this week. Alfalfa and grasses should progress quickly too.
- Nitrogen should be applied to grass fields (if less than 50% legume and no manure history) now, if it's not already on. Ideally, N application should be timed just prior to the increase in plant demand to limit risk of losses to ground and surface water and to the atmosphere. (Risk of volatilization is higher for urea surface-applied to sods than when incorporated into tilled soils, but if applied just before a 0.5" rain, or with a urease-inhibitor, N loss can be minimized.)

2022 North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa-Grass Progress Report

County	Town/Field	Elevation (feet)	Soil		Alfalfa Height, inches							
			Type	% Grass	2-May	9-May	16-May	23-May	31-May	6-Jun	13-Jun	
St. Lawrence	Canton	570	Muskellunge	30	7	9.5						
St. Lawrence	Depeyster	350	Malone	15	8	12						
St. Lawrence	Lisbon	380	Hogansburg	3	8	12						
St. Lawrence	Waddington	300	Hogansburg	20	7	10						
St. Lawrence	Dekalb	450	Heuvelton	60	6	9.5						
St. Lawrence	Lawrence	460	Depeyster	5	6	9						
St. Lawrence	Parishville	670	Nicholville	0	7	12						
Franklin	Bombay	190	Covington	20	5	8						
Franklin	Moira	490	Walpole	50	8.5	12						
Franklin	Moira	440	Kars	40		8						
Clinton	AuSable	400	Appleton	30	6	12						
Clinton	AuSable	400	Bombay	38	7	11						
Clinton	Chazy	185	Pinconning	35	4	8.3						
Clinton	Ellenburg	1400	Fahey	49	4.5	6						
Clinton	Ellenburg	1100	Schroon	45	4	7						
Clinton	Ellenburg	1100	Schroon	42	4	6.5						
Lewis	Lowville	750	Kars	20	6	9						
Lewis	Lowville	1240	Herkimer	31	5	9						
Lewis	Lowville	1060	Amenia	58	6	9						
Lewis	Denmark	862	Galway	13	5	10						
Lewis	West Turin	1310	Herkimer	10	5	10						
Lewis	Leyden	1240	Nellis	25	4	9						
Lewis	Martinsburg	1090	Galway	70	4	8						
Jefferson	Rodman	860	Galway	18	6	9						
Jefferson	Adams	410	Collamer	8	7	8.5						
Jefferson	Ellisburg	305	Hamlin	32	5.5	8						
Jefferson	Champion	1160	Manlius	51	5.3	7.8						
Jefferson	Champion	1140	Manlius	1	4.3	7.6						
Jefferson	Cape Vincent	305	Plainfield	75	7	9						
Jefferson	Philadelphia	540	Hudson	95	5	7.5						
					5.8	9.1						