

# Mariner III Alfalfa



## Characteristics

Fall Dormancy.....4.0  
 Winter Survival.....2.0 (Very Good)  
 Recovery After Cutting..... Very Fast

- Branch rooting system
- High yield potential
- Adapted to variable soil conditions
- Fast recovery after cutting
- Stands up to wheel traffic pressure
- Superior winter hardiness and persistence

Mariner III Alfalfa is designed for 3 to 4 cut management systems where variable soil conditions are a concern. Mariner III excels on both wet and well drained soils, plus resists heaving and mechanical injury better than other alfalfas. With the potential for high yields especially under less than ideal soil conditions, great forage quality and an excellent disease and insect resistance package, Mariner III gives you the flexibility to optimize your management decisions.

## DISEASE/INSECT/NEMATODE RATINGS

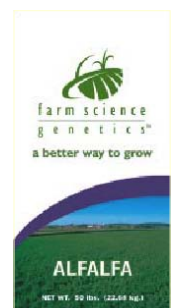
Bacterial Wilt	Highly Resistant (HR)	5*
Fusarium Wilt	Highly Resistant (HR)	5*
Verticillium Wilt	Highly Resistant (HR)	5*
Anthracnose-Race 1	Highly Resistant (HR)	5*
Phytophthora Root Rot	Highly Resistant (HR)	5*
Aphanomyces-Race 1	Highly Resistant (HR)	5*
Wisconsin Disease Index	30 out of 30	
Pea Aphid	Resistant (R)	
Potato Leafhopper	Resistant (MR)	



\*Based on the Wisconsin Disease Rating Index.  
 This is a 1 to 5 ranking with 5 being the best.

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# TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION



## Alfalfa

(*Medicago sativa* X *glutinosa*  
& *falcata* X *glandulosa*)

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### Disease/Insect/Nematode Ratings:

Guaranteed Minimum WDI:	
Bacterial Wilt:	HR
Fusarium Wilt:	HR
Verticillium Wilt:	HR
Anthrachnose—Race 1:	HR
Phytophthora Root Rot:	HR
Aphanomyces—Race 1:	HR
Aphanomyces—Race 2:	R
Wisconsin Disease Index: 30/30	
Potato Leafhopper:	MR
Pea Aphid:	HR
Spotted Alfalfa Aphid:	
Stem Nematode:	

### Agronomic Traits:

Early Seedling Vigor	Excellent
Growth Habit:	Upright from Crown
Recovery After Cutting:	Fast
Firmness of Stem:	
Spring:	Moderately Coarse
Late Summer:	Very Fine
Leafiness:	Very Leafy Trifoliate
Leaf Retention:	Excellent
Plant Color:	Dark Green

### Crop Use Information:

Life Cycle:	Perennial
Ease of Establishment:	Fair-Good
Shade Tolerance:	Poor
Drought Stress:	Excellent
Wet Soil:	Poor-Fair
Low pH Tolerance:	Poor
Minimum pH:	6.5
Saline Soils (White Alkali):	Fair
Saline—Sodic Soils (Black Alkali):	Poor-Fair
Hay:	Excellent
Haylage:	Excellent
Continuous Grazing:	Poor-Fair
Palatability:	Excellent
Anti-Quality:	Bloat

### Planting Rates:

Bushel Weight:	60 lb
Seeds Per Pound: (Non-Coated)	227,000

Rate (Lbs):	Pure	Coated	With Grass
North:	15-20	15-20	8-10
South:	20-30	20-30	10-15
Seeds/Sq Ft (Non-coated)	78-104	46-92	42-52

### Adaptation Ratings:

Fall Dormancy:	4.0
Winter Survival:	2.0
Stand Persistence:	Very Fast

## **Quality Data—Mariner III Alfalfa:**

### **Variety Selection:**

Select varieties with Fall Dormancy and Winter Survival adequate for your area. Varieties should have resistance to known pests in your area. Determine what your objectives and management style are—grazing, hay, etc.

### **Seedbed:**

Do not select a field where the previous crop was alfalfa. Alfalfa should be seeded into a firm, fertile, well-drained seedbed. Fertility should be high, and pH must be a minimum of 6.5.

### **Seeding:**

Plant during conditions of adequate moisture and moderate temperatures.  
Pure stands: seed 15-20 lbs. Per acre.  
Mixtures: seed 5-10 lbs. Per acre.  
Plant shallow, ideally no deeper than 1/4—1/2 inch.  
Use a cultipacker or press wheels to insure good seed to soil contact.

### **Weed & Disease Control:**

Use recommended herbicides and chemicals as listed in your regional crop guide, or recommended by your county agent or certified chemical supplier.

### **Forage Production & Harvesting:**

Most forage is produced during the spring and early summer with yields continuing to decline as the summer progresses. Ideal production temperatures are: day-82 F and night—70 F. In general, graze or cut for hay when alfalfa is in early bloom. Graze or cut about a 2" height. Successive cuttings for hay should occur at 1/4" bloom stage. Alfalfa can best withstand grazing if rotated frequently or grazed in small strips. The last cutting alfalfa should be made 3-4 weeks before the first killing frost date. Alfalfa may cause livestock to bloat. Care should be used in managing such grazing to reduce the possibility of this hazard.

### **Re-growth:**

Re-growth may be negligible when temperatures exceed 96 F and moisture stress is severe. Alfalfa requires a lot of Boron compared to other crops. During severe drought Boron is unavailable which stops stem elongation. Boron promotes cell division and growth. Fall re-growth should be at least 9" tall going into winter. This usually requires about five weeks prior to your average killing frost date.