

Predicting Relative Feed Value of First Cut Alfalfa

Height of Tallest Stem (from soil surface to stem tip)	Stage of Most Mature Stem				
	Late Vegetative (<12", no buds visible)	Early Bud (1 to 2 nodes with visible buds)	Late Bud (more than 2 nodes with visible buds)	Early Flower (1 node with 1+ open flower(s))	Late Flower (2+ nodes with an open flower)
Inches	----- Relative Feed Value -----				
16	234	220	208	196	186
17	229	215	203	192	182
18	223	211	199	188	178
19	218	206	195	184	175
20	213	201	191	181	171
21	209	197	187	177	168
22	204	193	183	173	165
23	200	189	179	170	161
24	196	185	175	167	158
25	191	181	172	163	155
26	187	178	169	160	152
27	184	174	165	157	150
28	180	171	162	154	147
29	176	167	159	151	144
30	173	164	156	148	141
31	169	161	153	146	139
32	166	158	150	143	136
33	163	155	147	140	134
34	160	152	145	138	132
35	156	149	142	135	129
36	154	146	139	133	127
37	151	144	137	131	125
38	148	141	134	128	123
39	145	138	132	126	121
40	142	136	130	124	118
41	140	133	127	122	116
42	137	131	125	120	114
43	135	129	123	118	113
44	132	126	121	116	111
45	130	124	119	114	109
46	128	122	117	112	107
47	126	120	115	110	105
48	123	118	113	108	103

Example: In a two square-foot area, the most mature stem has three nodes with visible buds but no open flowers (Late Bud). The tallest stem measures 31 inches from the soil surface. Estimated RFV is 153.