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SOIL-PLUS™ Increases Alfalfa Production (Arizona)

ABSTRACT

In July 1998, Rovey Farms of Glendale, Arizona, began a pilot test of Biofeed products to determine their efficacy in enhancing the production of alfalfa that is harvested for feed at their dairy farm.

BACKGROUND

Alfalfa is a common source of feed, and most dairy farmers grow their own as supplying daily feed to over 900 cows can be an overwhelming expense. Rovey Farms has been producing alfalfa for over 50 years and often profits from excess production by selling alfalfa locally.

APPLICATION

Biofeed SOIL-PLUS™ was applied at a rate of 2 quarts per acre, which was water-run applied at the onset of the growing season. Additional treatments were made immediately following each cutting, usually every 3-4 weeks, and the results were measured.

RESULTS

Prior to each cutting, the height and density of growth were measured using a cross-bar measuring device, which aids in determining the actual height of the crop from the ground up.

All the treated fields averaged from 4" to 6" greater height as compared to the non-treated fields. Further, the treated fields showed improved drainage of irrigation water.

Final measurements were made at each cutting, and the treated fields produced a 24% increase of alfalfa on average compared to the non-treated fields.

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