



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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2024 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

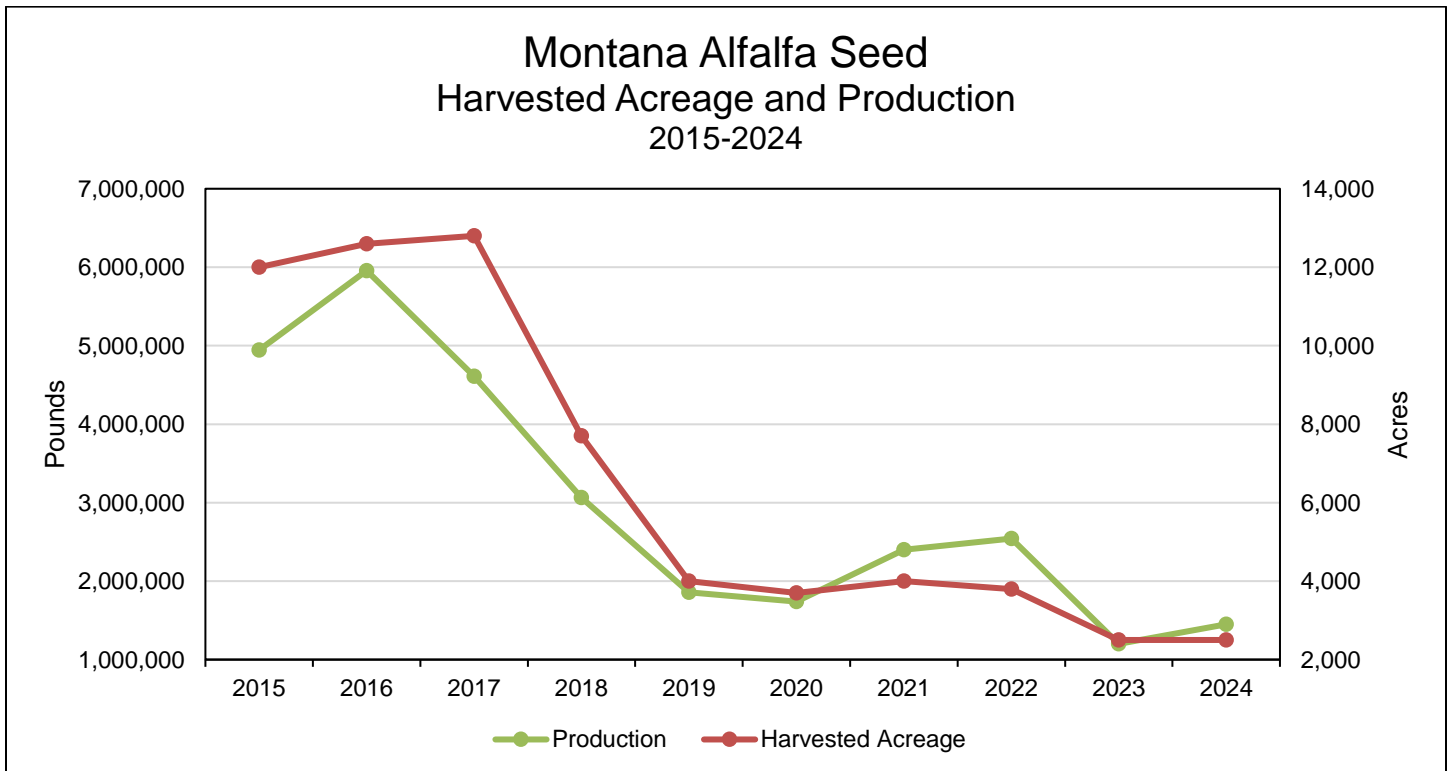
Alfalfa seed production in Montana for 2024 is estimated at 1.45 million pounds, an increase of 21 percent, or 250,000 pounds from last year's production estimate of 1.20 million pounds. Harvested area totaled 2,500 acres, unchanged from 2023. On average, producers harvested 580 pounds of alfalfa seed per acre, up from 480 pounds per acre in 2023.

Producers who used leaf cutter bees used an average of 2.8 gallons of bees per acre, a decrease of 0.8 gallon from the rate of bees used in 2023. Leaf cutter bees were used on 100 percent of the reported acreage this year. Of the reported harvested acreage, 68 percent was grown under contract.

Montana Leaf Cutter Bees 2021-2024

Year	Total		Irrigated	
	Percentage of Acreage	Gallons of Bees Used per Acre	Percentage of Acreage	Gallons of Bees Used per Acre
2021	NA	3.4	97%	3.4
2022	NA	3.3	100%	3.3
2023	100%	3.6	(1)	(1)
2024	100%	2.8	(1)	(1)

1/ Estimates discontinued starting with the 2023 crop year.



Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value for Montana from 2015-2024 ¹

Year	TOTAL					IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	Price/Pound	Total Value	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds					Pounds			Pounds	
2015	12,000	412	4,944,000	\$2.46	\$12,162,240	7,200	600	4,320,000	4,800	130	624,000
2016	12,600	473	5,957,000	\$2.33	\$13,879,810	9,200	605	5,566,000	3,400	115	391,000
2017	12,800	360	4,610,000	\$2.29	\$10,556,900	9,100	470	4,277,000	3,700	90	333,000
2018	7,700	398	3,063,000	\$2.16	\$6,616,080	6,000	485	2,910,000	1,700	90	153,000
2019	4,000	464	1,857,000	\$2.25	\$4,178,250	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2020	3,700	469	1,737,000	\$1.91	\$3,317,670	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2021	4,000	600	2,400,000	\$2.18	\$5,232,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2022	3,800	669	2,542,000	\$2.68	\$6,812,560	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2023	2,500	480	1,200,000	\$2.41	\$2,892,000	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
2024	2,500	580	1,450,000	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

² Estimates discontinued starting with the 2023 crop year.

(D) - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2024 ¹

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
Northwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
North Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Northeast	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Southwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
South Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Southeast	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Other	2,500	580	1,450,000	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Montana	2,500	580	1,450,000	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

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Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2023 ¹

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
Northwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
North Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Northeast	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Southwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
South Central	850	565	480,000	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Southeast	(D)	(D)	(D)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Other	1,650	436	720,000	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Montana	2,500	480	1,200,000	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

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