

Alaska Forage Manual



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Published November, 2012:

State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Agriculture

Plant Materials Center
5310 S. Bodenburg Spur Rd.
Palmer, AK 99645



This publication was funded in part by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Alaska Forage Manual

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Above: Casey Dinkel at the Arctic Circle monument on the Dalton Highway



At right: Phil Czapla in Barrow, Alaska

Foreword

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May 1, 2012

Dear Alaskans,

When I turned the page on my Potash Corporation calendar today, there was a quote by President Eisenhower printed next to the date. The quote read: "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." Anyone who has been involved in Alaska agriculture for the last thirty years can easily relate to President Eisenhower's comment!

Farming isn't easy. Farming in Alaska can be very difficult. Alaskan farmers face challenges that are unique to Alaska. The list is long and varied: unpredictable weather, cold soils, nutritional deficiencies, acidic soils, short seasons, limited infra-structure, limited expertise, long supply lines, higher costs, and smaller markets. Those are the challenges that come to mind and I know there are more. We can't do anything about the weather, the short season, and the cold soils, but many of the other issues can and will be resolved.

I'm a big fan of the Plant Materials Center. The PMC is a good example of a government entity that actually does what it was intended to do and does it well. The PMC really does promote the agricultural industry in Alaska through the work and research of the staff. Their publications are top notch. The Staff at the Plant Materials Center in Palmer is providing practical, useful expertise and services in areas that will benefit local farmers. They are not a thousand miles from the farmer's field; they are in the field and they are talking to farmers. The new Forage Publication produced by the Plant Materials Center is another excellent publication providing the information that will help farmers make the best possible management decisions relating to their specific area, climate, and soil. Everyone who is involved with raising forage crops and hay will benefit from using this current publication as a reference.

Take advantage of the resources offered by the Plant Materials Center and let them know that you appreciate all the fine work that they have done.

Sincerely,



Ken Sherwood
CEO

Dealers of
SEED • AG PRODUCTS • GARDENING SUPPLIES

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The [Alaska Forage Manual](#) was released by the Alaska Plant Materials Center, a part of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture. This publication is intended for use by forage producers, users and the general public. It was produced at a cost of \$15.45 per copy, and printed in Anchorage, Alaska. This publication is also available online, at plants.alaska.gov.

Temperature		Temperature		Volume		Length		Length	
C	F	C	F	Liters	Quarts	cm	inch	cm	feet
100	212	5	41	1	1.1	2.5	1	300	10
90	194	0	32	2	2.1	5	2	400	13
80	176	-5	23	3	3.2	10	4	500	16
70	158	-10	14	4	4.2	20	8	1,000	33
60	140	-15	5	5	5.3	30	12		
50	122	-20	-4	6	6.3	40	16		
40	104	-25	-13	7	7.4	50	20		
35	95	-30	-22	8	8.5	60	24		
30	86	-40	-40	9	9.5	70	28		
25	77					80	32		
20	68					90	36		
15	59					100	39		
10	50					200	79		

Metric Conversions

To convert this	to this	multiply by
Length		
inches	millimeters (mm)	25.4
feet	centimeters (cm)	39
yards	meters (m)	.91
miles	kilometers (km)	1.61
millimeters	inches	.04
centimeters	inches	.4
meters	inches	39.37
meters	yards	1.1
kilometers	miles	.6
Temperature		
Fahrenheit	Celsius	.56 (after subtracting 31)
Celsius	Fahrenheit	1.82 (then add 32)
Farm products		
pounds per acre	kilograms per hectare	1.14
short tons per acre	kilograms per hectare	2.25
kilograms per hectare	metric tons per hectare	.001
kilograms per hectare	pounds per acre	.88
tons per hectare	short tons per acre	.44
tons per hectare	kilograms per hectare	1,000
Area		
square inches	square centimeters	6.5
square feet	square meters	.09
square miles	square kilometers	2.6
acres	hectares	.4
square centimeters	square inches	.16
square meters	square yards	1.2
square kilometers	square miles	.4
hectares	acres	2.5

Back cover photos:
Upper left: A swather mows grass near Palmer;
Upper right: A tedderer lays down hay for drying;
Center: Horses feed on pastureland in Palmer;
Bottom left: A mower-conditioner working a hay crop;
Bottom right: Pasture field near Palmer;
Photos: Casey Dinkel, AK PMC



