

Fun Facts About Alfalfa

Montana Seed Growers Association

- In 2017 Montana's harvested 1.75 million acres of alfalfa hay (USDA/NASS Stats).
- Gallatin county alone harvested 38,000 acres in 2016 (no data for 2017) (USDA/NASS Stats).
- A major forage (hay or silage) crop in Montana.
- Alfalfa is fed to beef and dairy cow, sheep, goats, horses, and other farm animals (Dennis).
- Alfalfa has very tiny seeds about 220,000 seeds per pound (Dennis).
- Because of the small seed size alfalfa is planted just below the surface of the ground. Only about 1/2 inches deep (Dennis).
- Alfalfa is a perennial plant, like trees alfalfa will grow year after year even once it has been cut for hay (Dennis).
- Alfalfa can make its own nitrogen, which is an important macro nutrient for plants, just like protein is important for humans.
- Alfalfa seed growers use bees to pollinate their alfalfa.
- Leaf cutter bees are used to pollinate alfalfa fields.

Honey bee



Leafcutter bee



Image by: <https://buzzatcherrycreekunl.wordpress.com/2016/07/18/getting-to-know-leafcutter-bees/>

Alfalfa in Bloom



Alfalfa Sprouts



Photo credit:

<http://wegrowfortheworld.com/2016/06/gm-alfalfa/>

http://www.homeremediesweb.com/alfalfa_health_benefits.php