

2013 COEXISTENCE PLAN FOR ALFALFA HAY IN EASTERN CANADA

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTISES CHECKLIST

GETTING STARTED

Purchase certified seed
Record name of supplier
Record date of purchase
Record variety name and amount purchased
File seed tags by date if the purchase is GM seed:
Is it coloured?
Sign technology use agreement
Understand and sign stewardship contract
Consult neighbours
Note the location of your GM fields
Note locations of conventional and organic alfalfa fields
Note locations of nearby pollinator colonies

PLANTING

Clean planter to remove all previous alfalfa seed
Record date planting begins
Record date planting is completed
Return unopened GM seed to seed supplier
If unused GM seed is not returned:
Store unused GM seed in sealed solid container
Label the container
Store the container away from conventional or organic seed OR
Dispose of unused seed by burning or with deep burial

STAND MANAGEMENT

Mow any alfalfa on field edges, in ditches and roadsides near GM and organic alfalfa hay fields – before flowering
Record herbicide application dates and types
Clean haybines, swathers, balers and wagons
Harvest GM alfalfa fields before 10% bloom
Record date harvest begins
Set aside first bale when harvesting non-GM hay after harvesting GM hay
Record date harvest is completed
If hay is destined off farm:
Store GM, conventional and organic hay in separate locations
Label GM hay
Label Organic hay
Clean loading, handling and transportation equipment and loading areas between shipments
Testing required? Record date tested and the result of the test

END OF GM ALFALFA STAND MANAGEMENT

Comply with the requirements of your stewardship agreement. Consult with agronomist or seed dealer to identify options
Record herbicide choices
Record date of herbicide application for “burn down”
Till field 7 to 12 days after “burn down”
Record date field was tilled
Record date(s) field scouted
Eradicate any living alfalfa plants
Record method of eradication and dates

POST GM ALFALFA

Record subsequent crop planted on the field (do not follow GM alfalfa with alfalfa)
Record dates crop scouted
Eradicate any alfalfa plants
Record eradication method and dates