



# Foraging Ahead

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The Alfalfa Technology Leaders

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## Do Fungicides Play a Role in Alfalfa Production? by Chad Staudinger

Fungicides have been used on corn and soybeans for several years. Some of these, such as Headline from BASF and Quadris from Syngenta, have recently been approved for use on alfalfa. The question of the day is: What are the effects of using foliar fungicides on alfalfa?

Because these products have only recently been approved for use in alfalfa, there is limited research available. However, with the help of some funding from the Midwest Forage Association, Paul Esker, Bryan Jensen, and Bill Halfman from the University of Wisconsin and University of Wisconsin Extension were able to produce a study in 2011.

Studies were conducted in Arlington and Tomah, Wis. In Arlington, HybriForce-2400 seeded in 2010 was treated with Quadris, Headline, Warrior II, and Respect. To assess the effect of the fungicides on yield, forage quality and plant disease, we will only review Headline and Quadris. In Tomah, an unknown alfalfa variety was treated with Headline and Respect but only Headline data will be included here. In both locations, data was collected from second and third crops and the fungicide was applied at 6 inches of growth for second crop and 9 inches of growth for third crop.

### Conclusions

- Although foliar diseases were reduced, there was no significant effect on yield
- Slight forage quality improvements were measured in Arlington, but none in Tomah
- Greater differences may have been observed if leaf disease pressure was greater
- More research needs to be conducted to:
  - Evaluate other environments
  - Potentially include first crop data
  - Compare costs and benefits

### Recommendations

- If you are interested in fungicides on your farm, split a field next year and spray one half
- Measure yield and quality parameters from each half of the field
- Apply fungicide at 6 inches of growth and observe the 14-day waiting period before harvest

### Summary of Fungicide Study Results

Location	Yield		Forage Quality			% Plants with Foliar Disease*					
	Headline	Quadris	(Headline Only)			Untreated		Headline		Quadris	
			CP (%)	RFQ	M/T	LC	UC	LC	UC	LC	UC
Arlington 2nd	NSD	NSD	NSD	+11	+59	10.0	5.7	2.9	1.8	5.6	2.7
Arlington 3rd	NSD	NSD	+1.0	NSD	+109	4.7	2.3	1.0	0.1	2.4	0.3
Tomah 2nd	NSD	N/A	NSD	NSD	NSD	30.0	4.0	18.0	3.0	N/A	N/A
Tomah 3rd	NSD	N/A	NSD	NSD	NSD	11.0	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
NSD=No Significant Difference CP = % Crude Protein RFQ = Relative Forage Quality M/T = Milk Per Ton						LC = Lower Canopy UC = Upper Canopy N/A = Not Tested or Measured					
*Authors note that although a reduction in foliar disease occurred, there was very low incidence even in the untreated check.											

# HybriForce-2400 Shows Strong Performance in State Trials - New Results!

*by Chad Staudinger, Forage Product Manager*

Time has expired...the last whistle has blown...all varieties gave their best effort...and the results are in! Since its first showing in the 2008 State trials, HybriForce-2400 has competed head-to-head with competitive varieties 547 times. Out-yielding the competition 436 times, this Gen-2 Hybrid Alfalfa has won 80 percent of the head-to-head comparisons. The average yield advantage is an impressive 6.6 percent.

To compare varieties from within the University testing system, visit:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/alfalfa/>



## HybriForce-2400 Yield Advantage and Win/Loss Record versus All Non-Dairyland Entries in all Midwestern and Northeastern Public State Trials

STATE	REGION	ADV <sup>1</sup>	W - L <sup>2</sup>	Win % <sup>3</sup>
Iowa	MW	4.7%	12 - 6	67%
Michigan	MW	8.2%	56 - 14	80%
Minnesota	MW	6.5%	77 - 18	81%
Ohio	MW	4.9%	8 - 2	80%
Wisconsin	MW	6.5%	113 - 36	76%
New York	NE	6.7%	85 - 15	85%
Pennsylvania	NE	8.8%	85 - 20	81%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6.6%</b>	<b>436 - 111</b>	<b>80%</b>

<sup>1</sup>"ADV" is the average percent forage yield advantage of HybriForce-2400 versus all non-Dairyland public trial entries when comparing total accumulated forage yields as of January 1, 2011, as reported by the public testing program over all U.S. public testing locations.

<sup>2</sup>"W" indicates the number of head-to-head comparisons (varieties at the same location and same test) that HybriForce-2400 yielded more than non-Dairyland entries (wins), and "L" indicates the number of head-to-head comparisons that HybriForce-2400 yielded less than.

<sup>3</sup>"Win %" is the percentage of head-to-head comparisons that HybriForce-2400 yielded more than non-Dairyland entries.