

Variety Description

Variety

EUROPE

Species	Lucerne (alfalfa)
Botanical name	Medicago sativa L.
Ploidy	diploid
Seeding rate (normal sowing)	25-30 kg/ha
Seeding rate (undersowing)	19-23 kg/ha
Distance between rows	similar to cereals
Sowing period (normal sowing)	from March to late August
Sowing depth	1-2 cm

Agronomic figures*:

Often multi-coloured flowers	4
Beginning of flowering	3
Stalk height/Full development	6
Tendency to lodging	5
Winter-hardiness	5
DM-yield first cut	6
Crude protein content	7
Resistance to verticillium wilt	7



Clarification of figures*:

1: very early, very low / 5: medium / 9: very late, very high

* **Source:** Cultivator classification

Variety description

EUROPE is a stable, persistent and winter-hardy alfalfa variety. Its good resistance against verticillium wilt is a particular strength. This soil-borne fungus cannot be controlled, which is why the variety being grown must have good resistance to it. As well as offering strong yields, EUROPE meets this requirement. Its fine stem and high leaf yield makes it a valuable fodder crop for cattle feed, as does its high protein content. EUROPE can be planted on its own, in mixtures and via undersowing.

Most important characteristics

High-yielding
Persistent
Good resistance to verticillium wilt

Usage

Alfalfa favours calcareous, deep soils with pH values of over 6.2 and is cultivated on its own or in mixtures. Its highest fodder quality is reached when it is cut during its budding phase. It should generally be allowed to flower once per year, which increases its persistence and winter hardiness by allowing sufficient carbohydrates to be stored in the roots. For cultivation in mixtures, a combination of 25 kg/ha of alfalfa with 6 kg/ha meadow fescue (or tall oatgrass) is recommended. Another good possibility is 28 kg/ha of alfalfa plus 3 kg/ha cocksfoot or timothy.

