

## Forages: Alfalfa and Other Legumes

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Disease control in forage crops is a long-term management problem. Planting locally adapted, disease-resistant cultivars and using good cultural practices will help reduce losses from diseases. Disease resistance ratings of alfalfa cultivars that are known to be marketed in our region are presented in this publication. Contact your local Extension office for information on cultivars not listed here. **Note that no commercially available alfalfa cultivars have an acceptable level of resistance to Sclerotinia crown and stem rot.** Stand establishment of forage legumes may benefit from the use of seed-protectant fungicides, particularly in spring, no-till seedings, or other conditions that may slow the germination process. In general, cool, wet soil conditions favor seed decay and damping-off diseases.

**Table 3.20 - Fungicide Seed and Soil Treatments for Alfalfa, Clovers, Lespedeza, Trefoil, Vetch, and Other Small Seeded Legumes**

Crop	Disease	Fungicide Common Name	Fungicide Trade name	Remarks
Alfalfa, clover, lespe-deza, trefoil, vetch, forage beans, forage soybeans, forage cow-peas, forage velvet beans, and pea vine hay	<i>Pythium</i> spp., damping-off and early-season	metalaxyl	Apron 50W	Apply as a seed treatment at the rate of 1.0 oz /100 lbs of seed.
	<i>Phytophthora</i> spp. rot	mefanoxam	Apron XL LS	Apply as a seed treatment at the rate of 0.64 fl oz/100 lbs of seed.
Alfalfa, clover, lespe-deza, and trefoil	Seed decay and damping-off	captan	Captan 30-DD Captan 300 Captan 400 Captan 400-DD	Apply as a slurry. Follow label instructions.
Alfalfa, clover, and other small seeded legumes	Seed decay and damping-off	thiram	Thiram-50WP Dyed	Apply as a slurry. Follow label instructions.
Alfalfa	<i>Pythium</i> spp., damping-off and root rots caused by <i>Phytophthora</i> spp.	mefanoxam mefanoxam	Ridomil Gold EC Ridomil Gold WSP	Stand establishment: Apply 0.25 - 0.5 pt/A as a broadcast spray at planting in a minimum of 20 gal water. If alfalfa seed is already treated with metalaxyl or mefanoram as a seed dressing, use only 0.25 pt/A spray.

