



# Premium Alfalfa S&W Varieties

# 2025





Since 1980, S&W Seed Company has bred alfalfa seed of the highest quality with superior genetic traits to help dairymen produce the best alfalfa hay for their herds. S&W is our premium brand, specializing in high-yield varieties with exceptional pest and disease resistance, to maximize profit per acre for the farmer, regardless of soil and water salinity.

Starting in 2010, we dramatically expanded both the acreage dedicated to alfalfa production and our R&D focus to include dormant and biotech varieties. Our breeding and product development emphasizes high yield, forage quality improvement, persistence, and disease and pest resistance. We are committed to providing technologies that improve crop performance, while ensuring enhanced digestibility for livestock.

Our team brings decades of expertise and industry leading innovation. We stay abreast of important trends, helping farmers combat today's farming challenges and supplying superior seed for alfalfa hay, the "queen of forages," all the while keeping an eye on sustainable solutions for tomorrow.



## **Expanding Products and Programs**

In 2012, S&W acquired Imperial Valley Seed to expand production in this rich California growing region and in 2013, Seed Genetics International (SGI) was acquired, further expanding production capabilities into Australia.

In late 2014, we acquired Pioneer's alfalfa breeding program and conventional alfalfa germplasm—providing a strong germplasm base that goes all the way back to 1958. We bring you top-performing alfalfa varieties developed through a long breeding legacy, at a more affordable price with a better value proposition than established national brands.

## **Our Germplasm Improvement Program Delivers**

- Outstanding root rot tolerance for areas with variable soils
- High-yielding varieties with emphasis on disease and pest resistance
- Increased emphasis on forage quality improvement
- Salt tolerant varieties spanning FD4 through 9 with proven performance
- Proven performance in both saline and non-saline soils
- Dormant and non-dormant varieties with a lifetime of germplasm improvement
- Dedicated seed production locations in the US and Australia

Our dormant alfalfa breeding program involved screening, crossing, and classification for each new variety. A typical variety can take 5 to 18 years to produce, depending on the methodology or traits being developed.





*Our breeding and product development emphasizes high yield, forage quality improvement, persistence, and disease and pest resistance.*



We conduct extensive testing across numerous environments for yield, forage quality, yield stability across environments, dormancy, tolerance to lodging, and regrowth from cutting. We also test up to 18 types of pest resistance, such as phytophthora root rot, aphanomyces root rot, and stem nematode. Each of our commercial varieties has been developed through this same process of germplasm improvement, characterization for agronomic and pest ratings, yield, and winter hardiness—for the highest productivity in your fields.

### **IQA™, the Next Innovation**

Our future alfalfa varieties will soon include IQA, a reduced lignin alfalfa quality trait, achieved through gene editing. It's integrated into elite alfalfa germplasm for both yield and improved forage quality performance. Growers may have the flexibility to harvest later without the typical rate of reduction in forage quality that occurs with conventional varieties, or they can cut on their normal schedule to potentially capture higher RFQ and increased fiber digestibility. This can offer an extended harvest window with improved forage quality. Please consult with our S&W team for availability in your region and whether your specific growing environment may be sensitive to a gene-edited trait.

## Alfalfa Traits and Ratings

**High Yielding** varieties are university verified—competitively earning top marks in yield trials throughout the states.

**Salt Tolerant** varieties are bred to withstand salinity challenges in soil, irrigation water, and other sub-prime conditions.

**Drought Tolerant** alfalfa produces maximum yields even during drought conditions, limited water resources, or extreme heat.

**Pest and Disease Resistant** varieties are bred to tolerate or resist up to 18 types of pests and diseases—see chart.

**LH Trait** offers best overall control of potato leafhoppers for growers who don't wish to consistently scout for leafhoppers or apply timely pesticides for control.

**Lodging Resistant** varieties maintain better yield and dairy quality by reducing lodging concerns such as harvest delays due to weather, fields with manure history, or uncut lodged stems in subsequent cuttings.

DORMANT	Dormancy	Yield	Winter Survival	Anthraxnose	Aphanomyces Race 1	Aphanomyces Race 2	Phytophthora Root Rot	Bacterial Wilt	Fusarium Wilt	Verticillium Wilt	Pea Aphid	Spotted Aphid	Blue Aphid	Stem Nematode	Root Knot Nematode	Salt Tolerance
SW3407	3	9	2	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R		R		
SW404S™ Brand	4	8	2	HR	R	R	HR	HR	HR	R				R		ST
SW425™ Brand	4	8	2	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R				
SW4412Y	4	8	2	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		HR		
SW4515	4	9	2	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R		HR		
SW525LH™ Brand	5	8	2	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R		R		
SW5615	5	9	1	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	R	R		HR		
SW5637S	5	8	3	HR	HR	R	HR	HR	R	HR	R	R		R		ST

### SEMI-DORMANT

SW6330	6	9	4	R			R	R	R		HR		R	MR	R	
SW7563Q™ BRAND	7	9	4	HR	LR		R	HR	HR	HR	HR	MR	HR	R	HR	

### NON-DORMANT

SW8421S	8	9					R	HR	HR		R	HR	R		R	ST
SW9720	9	9					R	MR	R		HR	HR	R	MR	HR	ST
SW9813S	9	9					R	R	R		R	R	HR	MR		ST
SW10	10	9					R	MR	R		HR	HR	HR		R	

#### Fall Dormancy

1 = Most Dormant  
10 = Least Dormant

#### Yield

1 = Lowest Yield  
9 = Highest Yield

#### Winter Survival

1 = Extremely Hardy  
2 = Very Hardy  
3 = Hardy

#### Pest and Disease

HR = Highly Resistant  
R = Resistant  
MR = Moderately Resistant  
LR = Low Resistance  
S = Susceptible

#### Blank Space

Blank = Insufficient Data or Not Applicable





*S&W's salt tolerant, fall dormant variety seeded in the spring, shown here in mid-May before first cut.*

## SW3407

### FALL DORMANCY 3

SW3407 is a high yielding FD3 variety that produces excellent quality forage. It has good standability and an excellent disease resistance index (DRI). SW3407 parents were selections based on half-sib yield performance evaluations to determine breeding value. Half-sib clonal parents were evaluated for forage quality and persistence over a period of years following inoculation with main alfalfa disease organisms.

- Suitable for wet soils because of its exceptional resistance to multi-race aphanomyces root rot
- Consistent top yields of dairy quality hay
- Excellent forage quality combined with good lodging tolerance for overall yield, cut-ability, and quality
- Winter hardy fall dormancy 3 with consistent high yield often near the top of yield trials with later FD4 varieties

## SW4412Y

### FALL DORMANCY 4

SW4412Y is a new lodging resistant variety with strong agronomic character and excellent disease resistance. This high forage quality variety produces consistently high yields. Lodging resistance can make harvest much easier and helps maintain harvestable yield.

- Lodging resistant characteristic can reduce or avoid lodging from heavy rain and wind, manure application, and delayed harvest
- Above average forage quality suitable for dairy quality hay and haylage
- Strong disease resistance to all major pathogens
- Very winter hardy
- Great all-around variety wherever a medium fall dormancy is desired
- Yield advantage over other varieties when lodging occurs can be ½ to ¾ ton per acre.

## SW404S™ Brand

### FALL DORMANCY 4

SW404S is a blend of S&W alfalfa germplasm containing an elite salt tolerant variety along with high-yielding, winter-hardy conventional alfalfa. Broad adaptability to both saline and non-saline growing conditions. Adapted to Plains and Western US FD4 growing areas.

- Good establishment, yield and stand longevity in fields where irrigation water/soil contains moderate salt concentration
- Highly suitable for fields with saline areas
- Adaptable where winter and spring precipitation drive salts down, but irrigation water applied later in the season has moderate salinity
- Includes a fall dormant salt tolerant variety bred in saline conditions, with the ability to maintain improved production
- Best-suited to fields with moderate or variable saline conditions where a majority of the field has only moderate salinity
- The blend of high yield plus salt tolerant germplasm can help boost yields during heavy spring growth after winter precipitation drives down soil salt concentration
- The salt tolerant component helps preserve more yield when soils become drier or when saline irrigation water affects salinity levels late in the growing season.

## SW425™ Brand

### FALL DORMANCY 4

SW425™ Brand is a blend of S&W proprietary alfalfa varieties chosen for their combined suitability for high yield potential of good quality forage. This variety is highly resistant to most major diseases and well suited throughout US growing areas where FD4 is desired.

- Good choice where medium fall dormancy is desired along with good winter hardiness
- Bred using traditional plant breeding methods
- Varieties are medium fast recovery type that can be highly suited for quick regrowth for hay production
- Highly suitable in western environments where stem nematodes can be a concern
- Highly resistant against stem nematode, important in irrigated production when the water source includes tail-waters from infested upstream fields
- Formulated for high resistance to verticillium wilt, phytophthora root rot and anthracnose
- Well-rounded overall package of pest and disease resistant alfalfa germplasm

## SW4515

### FALL DORMANCY 4

SW4515 is a FD4 variety with high yield potential and high resistance to stem nematode. This alfalfa variety has excellent overall disease resistance, plus high resistance to stem nematode for the northwest.

- Solid agronomic characteristics, good overall disease resistance, plus very good winter-hardiness
- Highly resistant to seven major alfalfa pests and diseases for a solid 35/35 DRI score, including multi-race aphanomyces
- Resistant to spotted aphid and pea aphids
- Good resistance to lodging, similar to SW5909 for lodging resistance
- Broad-based parentage includes germplasm from lodging resistant breeding lines
- High resistance to stem nematode for the northwest, especially well-suited for surface irrigated fields where stem nematode can come from irrigation canals

## SW6330

SW6330 is a high-yielding variety, with a fall dormancy rating of 6. After four harvest years at the New Mexico Agricultural Science Center (Clovis, New Mexico), this variety was rated 100% for stand persistence in a clay soil. SW 6330 is adapted to the Southwest and Great Plains regions of the United States. The mid-summer and fall growth is erect, recovers rapidly after cutting, and produces well in climate areas suited to a dormancy of 6 rating. SW 6330 topped the three-year yield trial conducted by the University of New Mexico at its Artesia field station. It also did very well at Clovis, New Mexico and at Davis, California in university yield trials. This variety gives California, Arizona and New Mexico hay growers and dairymen a good yielding variety with the feeding quality of a moderately dormant alfalfa. Its stand persistence is excellent.

## SW7563Q™ Brand

SW7563Q™ Brand is an intermediate-nondormant variety with strong growthy character, very good overall disease resistance, and high yield potential. SW7563Q is adapted to the Sacramento Valley of California and high desert areas of Arizona, the upper San Joaquin Valley, New Mexico, and Texas. Winter survival is good during wet or cold periods in these locations. SW7563Q has a good resistance levels to nematodes including a Resistant rating against stem nematodes and a High Resistance rating against southern root knot nematodes.

- High yield potential with strong summer growth to rival more non-dormant FD8 or FD9 varieties.
- Good production potential in the 'shoulder seasons' bracketing hot summer growth period.
- High forage quality potential with upright stem growth
- High resistance to vascular wilt diseases and resistance to Phytophthora root rot enhances tolerance to wet winter conditions.





## SW525LH™ Brand

FALL DORMANCY 5

SW525LH™ Brand is a leafhopper resistant, high yield variety with excellent pest resistance: high resistance to potato leafhopper, phytophthora, and multi-race aphanomyces. An excellent choice for the Midwest, Plains and Northeast where leafhoppers can be a pernicious pest on a yearly basis.

- High yield potential to rival elite conventional varieties
- Good organic production
- Excellent pest resistance for most North American environments
- Highly suitable to all areas where leafhoppers can be a significant pest
- Excellent winter hardiness
- Very suitable for 3-5 high yield cuts of quality hay production
- Highly suitable to heavy soils where root rots are a concern
- Best overall control of potato leafhoppers in alfalfa

## SW5615

FALL DORMANCY 5

SW5615 is a very high-yield potential, fall dormancy 5 variety with a strong performance record in research trials across a wide area. The combination of excellent winter survival index and strong disease resistance gives SW5615 a leg up on stand persistence.

- SW5615 is highly resistant to nine major alfalfa pests and diseases, for a solid 35/35 DRI score, including multi-race aphanomyces
- Winter survival index of 1 – extremely winter-hardy
- High resistance to phytophthora & aphanomyces root rots, multiple races and biotypes
- High resistance to stem nematodes
- SW5615 is an excellent replacement for Pioneer 55V50 with increased yield and forage quality
- SW5615 is a superb choice for overall yield, forage quality and stand persistence

## SW5637S

FALL DORMANCY 5

SW5637S is a high-yielding, fall dormant variety, bred in saline growing conditions and selected for the ability to maintain improved production of hay in saline soils. Relative Feed Quality (RFQ) is above average, 102% of the mean versus RFQ of elite check varieties. SW5637S demonstrates very good yield retention in moderate to strong saline growing conditions.

- Adapted to the Western half of the US fall-dormant growing areas with salinity challenges in soil or irrigation water
- Highly suitable for growing areas that obtain 4-5 cuts per growing season
- Suitable for saline soils where irrigation water and/or soil contains salts of moderate to strongly saline salinity classes
- Maintains good yield in saline growing conditions, of high quality and quantity of hay or haylage

**SW8421S****FALL DORMANCY 8**

SW8421S is a non-dormant FD8 variety that produces high yields of high quality hay. Bred under very saline conditions, it has the ability to maintain much of its high yield potential even in saline production situations. It is a strong choice for fields with salinity build-up.

- Highest yielding salt tolerant variety in multiple University trials
- A strong choice for fields that contain slick or sodic soils, and also for situations where deficit irrigation could lead to salinity build-up
- Using irrigation water with an Electrical Conductivity (EC) rating of 15 (very salty water), SW 8421S out-produced both the standard salinity check entry (AZ-90NDC-ST) and Salado by 39% and 32% respectively in University of Arizona salinity trials at Tucson
- Produced 18% more hay than CUF 101 in the UC trials in Fresno County, California and 17% more than CUF 101 in Tucson, Arizona
- Alfalfa growth is erect with rapid recovery after cutting
- Stand persistence at the end of 3 year trial in Tucson, Arizona was 96%, compared to CUF 101 variety at 61%

**SW9720****FALL DORMANCY 9**

This FD9 variety has a very wide area of adaptation with above average forage quality, and is tolerant to salty irrigation waters and saline soils.

- Wide area of adaptation
- Tolerant to salty irrigation waters and salty soils
- Highest yielding alfalfa in UC Davis Trial of 48 non-dormant entries for 2008
- 8.3% higher yield than CUF101 at University of Arizona trials
- Leader in yield and feed quality at the USDA salinity laboratory trials; alfalfa and other forages were under salt water irrigation management at Riverside, CA

**SW9813S****FALL DORMANCY 9**

SW9813S is our salt tolerant non-dormant variety with high yield potential in both saline and non-saline soil conditions. This variety's high resistance to aphids contributes to its strong forage production abilities.

- Proven performance in U of CA Westside Alfalfa Salinity Trials
- High yield performance potential, in both saline and non-saline soil conditions
- Selected under extreme saline conditions in the west side of the San Joaquin Valley
- Very good germination salt tolerance plus strong forage production salt tolerance
- Very good overall aphid resistance including blue aphids, pea aphids and spotted aphids





*Thank you for visiting our 2025 Premium Alfalfa S&W Varieties catalog. For more information go to [swseedco.com](http://swseedco.com) or call 855.767.4486.*



SWSEEDCO.COM  
LONGMONT, CO 80501

