

Agronomy 212 – Crop Growth, Productivity, and Management






Forage Quality

Recommended Moisture Contents for Silage

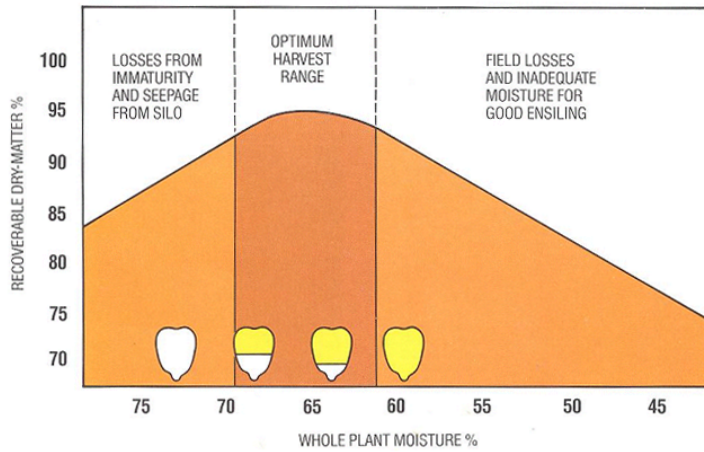
Silo Type	Recommended moisture content (%)
Upright silo	
Upright “oxygen-limiting” silo	
Horizontal silos	
Bag silos	

Ideal Silage Hybrid

Effect of harvest stage on yield and quality of corn silage

	Maturity Stage	Moisture (%)	Dry matter (T/A)	Crude protein (%)	Digestibility (%)
	Soft dough				
	Early dent				
	½ milkline				
	¾ milkline				
	Black layer (no milkline)				

Corn Silage Harvest



Source: Pioneer Forage Manual. Adapted from Crops and Soils Magazine.

Hay Management

Mechanical Losses

Moisture Guide for Preserving Hay

Moisture Percentage	Condition
35-45	
25-35	
18-25	
15-18	
Less than 15	

Cutting Schedules for Alfalfa in the Northern U.S.

Stage of maturity	Cuts	DM Tons/A	CP	ADF	NDF	Milk lb/T	Milk lb/A
Early-mid-bud (4X + Fall)			27	26	36		8178
Mid-bud (4X by 8/25)			26	28	37		8782
First flower (3X + Fall)			19	31	41		8515
First flower			18	32	42		7731

Source: Alfalfa for Dairy Animals. Certified Alfalfa Seed Council.