

# WSHGA/WSU Alfalfa Strip Tests

In cooperation with Gauntt Farms, the Washington State Hay Growers Association and Washington State University has established two alfalfa strip tests. One of them was planted in late summer in 2004 on 45 acres of land and demonstrates 14 varieties. The other was planted this August and demonstrates 6 varieties on about 30 acres. The entries are varieties that have performed exceptionally well in the WSHGA/WSU alfalfa variety tests over the past years. The purpose of the strip tests is to get an idea of variety performance under a typical farm management program. There are also plans to sample each variety in the haystack for forage quality. Often forage quality for variety differences is measured by taking a fresh sample from a small plot. By taking samples from the bale, forage quality is measurement of the true quality of the hay to be marketed and would factor in farm management such as raking a baling. Maps of the varieties are posted at the site and all are welcome to visit. A map to the location is on the WSHGA web site. William T. W. Woodward

