

Experimental plot

In 2001 an experimental plot was established in which 11 varieties of alfalfa were planted: 1. Valador, 2. Ranger, 3. Altiplano, 4. Bolivia 2000, 5. Tamborada, 6. Africana, 7. Riviera, 8. UMSS, 9. Pampa, 10. Reepan and 11. Moapa. Seed for all these varieties was provided by the Centro de Investigaciones Forrajeras (Centre for Forage Research) (CIF, Cochabamba, Bolivia). The plot had a complete random block design with four replicates (blocks) measuring 5×2 m. No plant protection products were used, nor were any forage cut, between sprouting (from August 2001) and harvest (May 2002). Maximum, minimum and mean daily temperatures were measured throughout the growth period, and compared to historic data for 1949/50 (just



Figure 3 Seed yield and percentage germination for the alfalfa varieties under Northern Altiplano conditions (Val=Valador; RAN=Ranger; ALT=Altiplano; BOL=Bolivia 2000; TAM=Tamborada; AFR=Africana; RIV=Riviera; UMS=UMSS; PAMF=Pampa REE=Reepan and MOA=Moapa).

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| Pampa flor | - | 37 | - |
| Reepan | 300-600 | 30 | Altiplano |
| Moapa | 200-350 | 29 | USA |