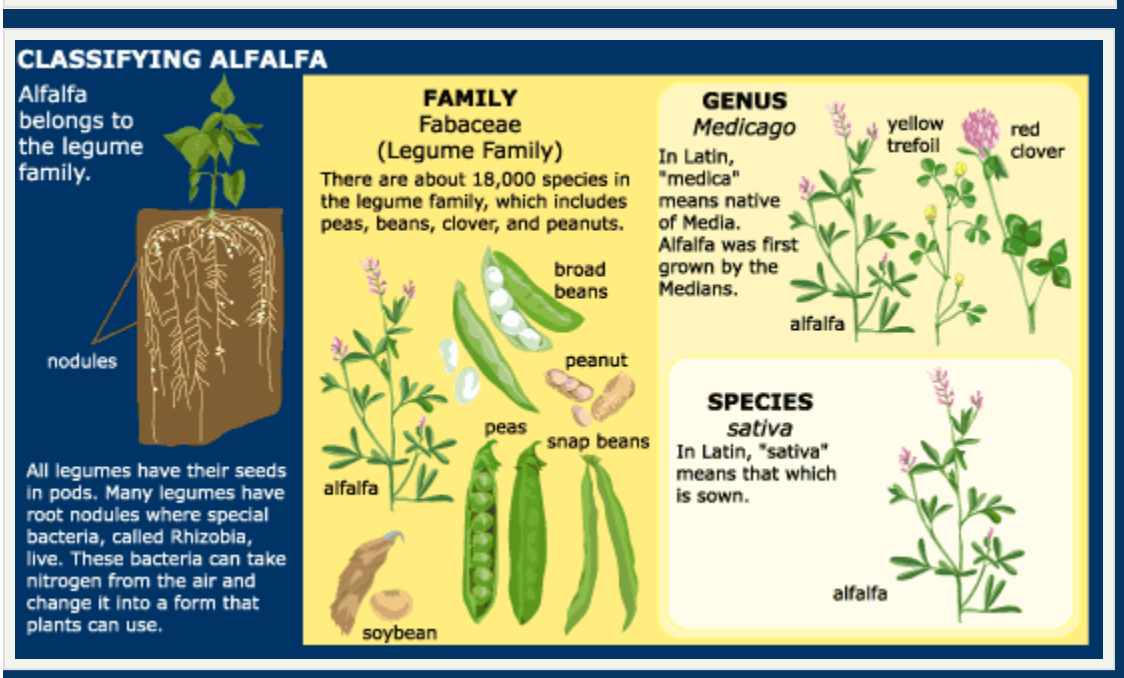
Alfalfa

DID YOU KNOW?
Alfalfa has deep roots. Believe it or not, miners in Nevada once found alfalfa roots 40 meters (129 ft) down into the soil!
ORIGINS
Alfalfa is native to Asia, Europe, and North Africa. The Medians, who lived in what is today Iraq and Iran, grew alfalfa 3,300 years ago.
Alfalfa is sometimes called "Queen of Forages" because it is the oldest known plant used to feed animals.


CLASSIFYING ALFALFA
Alfalfa belongs to the legume family.
nodules
All legumes have their seeds in pods. Many legumes have root nodules where special bacteria, called Rhizobia, live. These bacteria can take nitrogen from the air and change it into a form that plants can use.
FAMILY
Fabaceae
(Legume Family)
There are about 18,000 species in the legume family, which includes peas, beans, clover, and peanuts.
broad beans
peanut
peas
snap beans
alfalfa
soybean
GENUS
Medicago
In Latin, "medica" means native of Media. Alfalfa was first grown by the Medians.
yellow trefoil
red clover
alfalfa
SPECIES
sativa
In Latin, "sativa" means that which is sown.
alfalfa

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