Supplemental Tables

Table S1. Mean herbage accumulation (HA; g DM pot^{-1}) of alfalfa cultivars (AH: Aohan; GE: Golden Empress; ZD: Zhaodong) under various soil water content treatments (75-80%, 60-65%, 45-50%, and 30-35% of water-holding capacity)

Soil water content	HA	Cultivars	HA
75%-80%	6.1	AH	6.0
60%-65%	6.7	GE	5.7
45%-50%	5.6	ZD	5.3
30%-35%	4.2	*s.e.m.*	*0.11***
s.e.m.	*0.17***		

s.e.m. – standard error of the mean; * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$.

Table S2. Mean growing point density (GD; /pot) of alfalfa cultivars (AH: Aohan; GE: Golden Empress; ZD: Zhaodong) under various soil water content treatments (75-80%, 60-65%, 45-50%, and 30-35% of water-holding capacity)

Soil water content	GD	Cultivars	GD
75%-80%	35.7	AH	39.2
60%-65%	46.5	GE	37.0
45%-50%	37.0	ZD	37.2
30%-35%	31.9	*s.e.m.*	*0.48***
s.e.m.	*0.62***		

s.e.m. - standard error of the mean; $^{**}p < 0.01$

Table S3. Mean residual shoot biomass (SB, g DM pot^{-1}) and root biomass (RB, g DM pot^{-1}) of alfalfa cultivars (AH: Aohan; GE: Golden Empress; ZD: Zhaodong) under various soil water content treatments (75-%-80%, 60-%-65%, 45-%-50%, and 30-%-35% of water-holding capacity)

Soil water content	SB	RB	Cultivars	SB	RB
75%-80%	1.5	1.4	AH	1.6	1.4
60%-65%	1.8	1.4	GE	1.4	1.3
45%-50%	1.5	1.3	ZD	1.6	1.3
30%-35%	1.2	1.3	*s.e.m.*	*0.02***	*0.01***
s.e.m.	*0.02***	*0.01***			

s.e.m. – standard error of the mean; $^{**}p < 0.01$;