

Call of the Land for May 4, 2009  
Grass and Legume Seed Market update

Note: prices provided are normally given as grower prices, quoted by processors to growers after cleaning and dockage. However, with quotes now not being offered by many companies, last quotes may be provided.

As most followers of the grass and legume seed markets can attest to, this winter has probably been the slowest sales and movement season on record. The grass and legume seed markets continue to be virtually dead. What started last fall, continued through the winter months, and now, with spring here, has not changed. Very few new orders have come in, even with the arrival of spring. The grass and legume seed marketplace came to a virtual halt last fall with the economic crisis the world entered into. And we are still there. Processors are reporting that spring retail sales are now on-going, but on the farmer/wholesale side of things, purchasing, selling and seed movement just isn't happening.

With seed not moving, price quotes are last quotes or have been adjusted lower for slower movement.

In the turf grass sector, companies that are quoting Creeping red fescue are reportedly in the 40 to 45 ¢/lb range, but most companies simply are not buying. Certified creeper quotes are reportedly 5 to 8 ¢/lb higher.

The wholesale forage grass seed sector also remains quiet. Most prices have been pressured due to a lack of demand. Smooth brome grass quotes are in the 45 to 50 ¢/lb range, with Certified Carlton in the 55-60 ¢/lb range. Meadow brome grass seed quotes continue to be strong, with grower price quotes in the \$1.50-\$1.60/lb range. Common timothy seed quotes have moved down into the 40-45 ¢/lb range. Certified Climax timothy is quoted at a 10 to 15 ¢/lb premium.

On the legume side of thing, common alfalfa seed prices are in the \$1.00 to \$1.20/lb range. Common VNS (variety not stated) alfalfa seed can be 20 to 30 ¢/lb higher, depending on the variety initially grown. Alsike clover quotes have softened to the 35-40 ¢/lb range. Red clover quotes have fallen to the 80 ¢ to \$1.00 /lb range. Sweet clover quotes are similar to alsike quotes, 35 to 40 ¢/lb, but with very limited demand.

The grass and legume seed sector has not seen a "dead" season like this in quite some time, if ever. It will take time to chew through warehouse inventories and only if, demand starts to pick up. Don't be surprised if seed storage becomes widespread. Good thing our other grain and oilseed crop prices have helped to pay the bills and growers are not entirely relying on grass and legume seed income right now.

	Creeping Red Fescue	Boreal C R Fescue	Smooth Brome grass	Carlton Smooth Brome grass	Meadow Brome grass	Fleet Meadow Brome grass	Timothy	Climax Timothy	Alfalfa	Red Clover	Alsike Clover	Sweet Clover
	Common #1 - Min 97% Pure, 85% Germ	Cert #1	Common #1	Cert #1	Common #1	Cert #1	Common #1	Cert #1	Common #1	Common #1	Common #1	Common #1
Feb 5-08	50	60	130-140	140-150	160-170	190	35+	55-60	120-130	85-100	35	25-30
Mar 11	52-55	60	130-140	140-150	160-170	190	35-40	55-60	120-130	85-100	35-37	25-30
Apr 1	55	60-70	130-140	140-150	160-170	190	35-40	55-60	120-130	85-100	35-37	25-30
May 6	60	65-75	120-135	140-150	160-170	170-190	45-50	55-65	115-130	85-100	23-40	25-30
June 3	62-65	70-75	120-130	130-145	160-170	170-190	50	60-65	100-120	85-100	35-45	30
July 8	62-65	65-70	100-120	110-120	150-160	170-190	50	60-65	100-125	85-100	35-45	30
Aug 5	65-68	80-90	85-110	110-120	150-160	170-190	50	65-70	100-125	85-100	35-45	30
Sept 2	65-68	80-85	55-65	65-70	150-170	170-190	50-55	65-75	100-125	90-110	45-50	45-55
Sept 29	65	80	55-60	65-70	165-170	170-190	50	65-70	120-140	100-110	50-60	40-50
Nov 4	62-65	75-80	55-60	65-70	165-170	170-190	45-50	65-70	120-130	100-115	45-50	40-50
Dec 2	60-62	70-75	55-60	65-70	160-170	170-190	45-50	55-70	120-140	100-115	45-50	40-50
Jan 5-09	60-62	65-75	45-60	60-70	160-170	170-190	40-50	50-65	120-150	110-125	40-50	35-50
Feb 3	55-60	65-75	45-60	60-70	160-165	170-190	40-45	50-65	120-150	115-125	40-50	35-50

