

Call of the Land for Jan 5, 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.

I heard Earl Anderson of Promarket communications give a year end review yesterday on grain and oilseed market. However, for the grass and legume seed market place, things seem to be stuck in mud lately. Not much has happened, and not much is happening. Movement for all seed types is at a standstill right now, much as it has been for quite some time.

On the Creeping red fescue front, prices began 2009 around the 60 ¢/lb mark, and have been pressured lower due to a lack of movement and demand. Hand to mouth buying and the economic crisis has brought the turf grass seed sector to a virtual crawl. Present quotes for creeping red fescue are at 40 ¢/lb, but does not mean much if no one is buying. Warehouses are full and new orders have yet to appear. Hopefully, by this time “next year” things will have picked up.

In 2009, the forage grass seed sector saw prices fall 30 to 50% for most species. Smooth brome grass seed quotes, now in the 35 - 40 ¢/lb range, began the year around 60 ¢/lb. Certified Charlton has fallen as well, with quotes now around 45 ¢/lb. Meadow brome grass quotes have fallen almost 100%. Offers of \$1.60 to \$1.70 were quoted this time last year, but now current price quotes are anywhere's' from 80 ¢/lb to \$1.15. Timothy seed has now fallen to the 28-30 ¢/lb range, from last January quotes of around 40 to 50 ¢/lb. A lack of demand results in a lack of movement, with subsequent pressure on prices.

This past year also saw the legume seed sector pressured, but to a lesser extent. Red clover seed quotes have fallen from over \$1.00 a year ago to 60 to 70 ¢/lb. Alsike and sweet clover however, have maintained price levels, and are still around 45 ¢/lb for alsike, and 35 ¢/lb for sweet. With poor alfalfa seed crops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, alfalfa seed prices have remained relatively stable, and may even be up a bit to the \$1.10 to \$1.35 range.

Overall, it was a below average production year for most crops. And on top of that, a poor demand situation for most grass and legume seeds has pressured prices down. Hopefully, we're now at the bottom and have nowhere to go but up.

Grass and Legume Seed Quotes

	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
	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Com #1	Com #1	Com #1
Jan 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
Mar 3	50-60	60-70	45-55	55-65	155-165	170-180	40-50	55-60	120-140	105-115	40-50	35-50
Mar 31	45-50	50-60	45-50	55-65	155-165	170-180	40-45	45-55	120-130	80-110	35-40	35-40
May 4	40-45	50-55	45-50	55-60	150-160	160-170	40	45-55	100-125	80-100	35-40	35-40
June 2	40-45	50-55	40-50	50-60	150-160	160-170	40	45-55	100-125	80-100	35-40	35-40

July 7	40-45	50-55	40-50	50-60	150-160	160-170	40	45-55	100-125	80-100	35-40	35-40
Aug 4	42-45	50-55	40-50	50-60	130-140	140-160	35-40	45-55	100-130	80-100	35-45	35-40
Sept 1	40-45	50-52	40-45	45-50	120-130	140-150	30-40	45-55	100-130	60-80	40-45	30-40
Oct 6	40-43	50	40-45	45-48	80-120	100-140	30-40	45-55	90-140	65-80	40	35-40
Nov 3	40-45	50	35-40	40-45	80-120	120-140	30-45	45-55	100-140	50-80	25-40	30-40
1-Dec	40	45	35-40	40-45	80-120	120-140	30-40	40-45	100-140	50-80	35-45	30-40
5-Jan	40	45	35-40	40-45	80-120	120-140	28-30	35-40	110-145	50-70	35-45	30-40

Prices are quotes only, until actual orders come in, that's when firm pricing is established- prices in ¢/lb, last updated Jan 5-2010