

## Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – Dec 5, 2011

Supply / demand economics are finally starting to kick in for the grass and legume seed industry, at least, for the forage seed end of things. For the turf seeds, well, it's the same old story.

The US is reporting an average grass seed crop this past year, with good fall movement. However, demand for our Canadian creeping red fescue continues to move sideways, with prices showing likewise. Despite another lower production year in Canada, due to decreased acres, creeping red fescue quotes have stalled around the 45 to 48 ¢/lb range. However, movement off shore for certified Boreal continues to be good, with a 5 to 7 ¢/lb premium.

The forage grass quotes remain positive, as prices have not backed off from this fall's run-up in prices. Smooth brome grass quotes have moved up to the \$1.10 to \$1.40/lb, with certified Carlton showing a 10 ¢/lb premium. Meadow brome grass seed quotes are now actually less than smooth brome grass quotes, and are 90 ¢/lb up to \$1.10/lb range. Certified Fleet meadow brome is quoted up to \$1.30/lb. Timothy seed quotes have stalled around the 70 to 75 ¢/lb range, but long-term, this is a strong price quote. Certified timothy seed is very hard to find this year, with production well down. Quotes for certified Climax timothy, if there is any out there, are showing a 10 to 20 ¢/lb premium.

Alfalfa seed acres in Canada are well down from a few years ago, and with average to below average crops across the Prairie Provinces, price quotes have responded accordingly. Common alfalfa seed is quoted in the \$1.50 to \$1.65/lb range, with Variety not stated varieties 10 to 15 ¢/lb higher.

Harvesting in Peace region's clover seed fields got completed, with many producers reporting good crop yields. Red clover seed prices remain strong in the 75 to 90 ¢/lb range, while there is strong demand for alsike clover seed, pushing quotes up to the \$1.00 to \$1.15/lb range.

Markets for turf seeds are quiet right now, but forage seed grass and legume business continues to be active. With the traditional winter lull coming up, it's hoped that prices will continue to hold strong, and even improve this upcoming spring.

### 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
5 Jul -10	35-38	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-100	100-120	25-30	40	120-145	50-65	35-45	30-40
3-Aug	32-35	35-37	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	25-35	40-45	100-140	50-60	35-45	30-40
31-Aug	32-35	35-37	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	32-40	40-45	120-140	50-60	35-45	40-50
5-Oct	30-32	35	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	35-40	40-45	120-140	55-60	50-60	50-60
Nov 2	30-32	35	35-40	60-70	60-80	80-120	40	42-45	120-140	55-65	60-70	60-75
Nov 30	30-32	35	40-45	60-80	60-80	80-100	40	45-50	120-140	55-65	60-75	70-85
Jan 4-11	30-32	35	50-60	60-80	60-80	80-100	40	55-60	120-140	60-70	60-85	70-100
Feb 1	30-32	35	50-60	60-80	60-80	80-100	40	55-60	120-140	60-70	60-85	70-100
Mar 1	32-34	37	55-65	75-90	60-80	80-100	40-42	55-60	120-140	65-75	60-85	80-110
Mar 29	35	40-48	55-65	75-90	60-80	80-100	40-42	55-60	120-140	65-75	60-85	80-110
Apr 26	35-40	45-48	60-70	70-80	75-85	100-115	45	55-65	125-145	65-70	75-95	65-85
June 7	35-38	45-50	60-70	70-85	75-85	100-115	45	55-65	130-145	65-70	75-95	65-85
July 5	40-45	50-55	60-75	70-85	75-85	100-115	45-50	55-65	130-145	65-70	75-95	50-80
Aug 2	42-45	50-55	60-78	70-90	75-90	100-120	50-55	55-70	130-145	65-75	75-95	50-80
Aug 30	45	50-55	70-85	90-100	80-95	100-130	60-70	80+	130-145	70-80	85-100	60-85
Sept 20	45	55	90-125	120-135	90-110	120-130	65-75	80-90	130-145	75-90	85-110	60-85
Oct 25	50	55	100-130	135-140	90-120	130-140	70-75	80-100	130-145	80-90	100-110	60-85
Dec 6	45-48	55	110-140	140-150	90-110	130-140	70-75	80-100	150-165	80-90	100-115	60-85

Prices are quotes only, until actual orders come in, that's when firm pricing is established