

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – Aug 30, 2011

With the abundant wet weather encountered in the Peace Region this year, this year's creeping red fescue harvest is finally winding down, about 2 to 3 weeks behind normal. There's still reports that some areas have a few acres to finish. With the completion of the fescue harvest, the brome grass and timothy seed harvest has started. Early yield reports for the creeper crop indicates that yields may be average, with possible lack of moisture during last fall and too much moisture during pollination affecting yield outcomes. Once buying and cleaning picks up at the processors, we should have a bigger picture of how this year's grass and legume seed crops are turning out.

Creeping red fescue quotes remain around 45 ¢/lb, with a 5 ¢/lb premium for certified boreal. Eyes are still focused on the USA's economic situation, with fingers crossed that the "R" world doesn't come into their economic picture.

On the forage grass seed front, it appears as if prices are finally moving up. Smooth brome grass quotes have been thrown around in the 90 ¢/lb to over a dollar range, with slightly higher quotes for meadow brome grass. Timothy prices to the growers have really started to rally, with price quotes now around 60 to 70 ¢/lb. With very little certified timothy inventory, and few new crop fields in play, it's hard to peg a price for Climax timothy right now.

Growers of legumes, the few who are left, will have to wait a while yet to see this year's crop come off. With the abundant moisture this growing season, the crops won't be ready for a few more weeks yet. However, price quotes have strengthened. Red clover quotes are in the 70 to 85 ¢/lb range, while alsike quotes have moved between 90 ¢/lb and a dollar. Sweet clover quotes have also moved up, but ranges anywhere's from 60 to 85 ¢/lb.

With this year's grass and legume seed crop just harvested or about to be, it's still a bit early to speculate on the size of the crop for the various species. However, we already know that acres are down, so if demand holds, prices for most our species should strengthen into the fall.

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
30-Aug	45	50-55	70-85	90-100	80-95	100-130	60-70	80+	130-145	70-80	85-100	60-85

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

