

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – Mar 29, 2011

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.

Talking to processors this past week, I've been told that they have become quite busy.... cleaning seed and moving out orders, both old and new. This activity is most welcome in the grass and legume seed trade, but the activity has not been reflected in price movement, yet.

With expected low acres of many grass and legume seed crops, and with production typically requiring a year for establishment, end users could be in for an inventory "shock" down the road. Data has shown that Oregon's grass seed production is well down from previous years, responding to a lack of movement and more than adequate supplies.

Creeping red fescue quotes have moved up to 35 ¢/lb, with fall prices around 40 ¢/lb. Acres of Canadian creeping red fescue will be down substantially this upcoming year, and with old inventory being moved, future supplies will be lacking.

Processors or now taking inquires about retail forage grass and legume availability. It's hoped that the livestock sector will be reseeding needed forage supplies, although the more than adequate moisture conditions across the prairies my limit cattleman seeding intentions.

Common smooth brome grass seed quotes remain in the 55 to 65 ¢/lb range, with certified Carlton in the 80 - 100 ¢/lb range. Meadow brome grass quotes remain in the 60 -80 ¢/lb range for common. Demand for timothy seed has remained steady, with prices around 42 ¢/lb.

Sweet clover, if anyone has any, has been quoted in the \$1.00 to \$1.15/lb range, but with a niche market, this demand could dwindle up quickly if adequate supplies come forward. Red clover quotes remain in the 60-70 ¢/lb range, while alsike clover continues to be quoted in the 70 – 85 ¢/lb range. Alfalfa seed, despite the GMO alfalfa announcement, continues to be quoted in the \$1.30 to \$1.40/lb range.

With spring around the corner, and movement of seed in place, it's hoped that this trend continues, and grass and legume seed production starts to take a big step out of this market hole we've experienced these past 3 years.

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-Jan	40	45	35-40	40-45	80-120	120-140	28-30	40	110-145	50-70	35-45	30-40
2-Feb	35-40	40-45	35-40	40-45	70-110	120-130	25-30	40	115-140	50-70	35-45	30-40
2-Mar	35-40	40-45	35-40	40-45	70-110	120-130	25-30	40	125-140	50-70	35-45	30-40
7-Apr	35-40	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-110	120-130	25-30	40	120-145	50-70	35-45	30-40
4-May	35-38	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-100	100-120	25-30	40	120-145	50-65	35-45	30-40
31-May	35-38	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-100	100-120	25-30	40	120-145	50-65	35-45	30-40
5-Jul	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	40-50	55-65	75-90	60-80	80-100	40-42	55-60	120-140	65-75	60-85	80-110

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

