

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – Apr 10, 2012

In the turf grass seed end of things this month, “there’s good news, and there’s waiting for good news.” Most processors in the Peace are reporting good movement of seed, especially creeping red fescue. However, this refers to pre-bought orders, which have been shipped at a good pace, and earlier than scheduled. But anticipation of good spring movement is still in the air. Good weather in spring usage areas has resulted in good end user usage, but on existing inventory. Processors are still awaiting new orders to come in, but it’s still a bit early for that. Everyone’s hoping for the best. We’ll see what develops in the next month. That said, creeping red fescue quotes remain in the 48 to 50 ¢/lb range with certified Boreal quoting a 5 to 7 cent premium. Fall quotes for common creeping red fescue are in the 50 to 55 ¢/lb range.

The forage retail end of things are just starting to have its’ tires kicked. With good cattle prices of late, cattlemen are once again in the position to reseed hay fields and pastures. Most processors are expecting a good spring. A lack of production the past few years have kept prices for growers at very attractive levels.

Smooth bromegrass quotes remain in the \$1.30 to \$1.55/lb range, with certified Carlton showing a 10 ¢/lb premium. Inventories are short in both Canada and the US. Meadow bromegrass seed quotes are in the 1.10 ¢/lb to \$1.25/lb range for common, with Certified Fleet meadow brome quoted up to \$1.40/lb. Timothy seed quotes have settled in around the 70 to 75 ¢/lb range, with certified climax quotes showing a 10 to 20 ¢/lb premium.

Red clover seed prices quotes have settled in the 65 to 70 ¢/lb range, while the strong demand for alsike clover seed continues, and keep quotes for this seed up in the \$1.00 to \$1.10 / lb range. Sweet clover quotes were anywhere’s from 65 to 80 ¢/lb.

Lower Canadian alfalfa seed acres last year, resulting in lower production, have pushed alfalfa seed prices up, with quotes for common seed moving up to \$1.60 to \$1.70/lb. Quotes for Certified varieties are higher, depending upon the variety.

With grain and oilseed prices still at historical highs, resulting in projected very strong returns for these crops, it is very difficult for the grass and legume seed industry to recover lost acres. The strong Canadian dollar does not help either, as export prices are based on US dollars. With this grass and legume seed acreage concern, which will result again in lower production numbers for most grass and legume seed crops, any significant increase in demand could result in bountiful returns in the future. Unfortunately, due to the nature of grass seed production, unless growers start planning now and seed new fields, this potential opportunity may be lost.

Grass and Legume Seed Quotes (quotes in ¢/lb)

	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 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	120-130	70-75	80-100	150-165	80-90	100-115	60-85
Jan 3-12	45-48	55-60	110-130	140-150	100-130	120-140	70-75	80-100	150-165	75-90	100-115	60-85
Jan 30	46-48	55	110-125	140-150	110-125	120-140	70-75	85-95	150-165	65-80	100-115	70-80
Mar 12	46-50	55	125-145	160-165	120-125	135-140	70-75	85-90	160-170	65-75	100-110	70-80
Apr 10	48-50	55-60	130-155	160-165	120-125	135-145	70-75	85-90	160-170	65-70	100-110	60-80

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