

## Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – Dec 4, 2012

Although the grass and legume seed business isn't a hive of activity right now, things do look positive. A shortage of seed supply in most of our home grown grass and legume seed species have put a positive spin on price outlooks. Prices for most species are strong, and with a lack of acres in the ground, this could continue well into the next few years. However, the one species which hasn't rebound from the doldrums continues to be creeping red fescue, as its' market, the turf grass industry, continues to crawl out the economic hole created in 2008. However, unlike other grass seed species that are near recent price highs, fescue prices are now starting to creep up.

Creeping red fescue quotes have moved up to the 55 ¢/lb. mark, with certified creeping red fescue quoted up to 10 ¢/lb. higher. Despite a small Canadian crop due to lower acres, and the trade knowing about this Canadian supply situation, prices have yet to react accordingly. Hopefully for our growers, this spring will see a jump in demand.

With tight forage grass seed supplies, price quotes continue to hover well above historical price ranges. Common Timothy seed quotes continue to be quoted in the 75 to 85 ¢/lb. range, while Certified Climax timothy is in the 95 ¢/lb. to \$1.10/lb. range. With very low inventory levels, Smooth brome grass seed quotes have moved close to the 2.00 /lb. range. Certified Carlton is quoted at 25 to 30 ¢/lb. higher. Meadow brome grass quotes are in the \$1.15 to \$1.40 range, with Certified Fleet meadow brome 15 to 25 ¢/lb. higher. With these tight inventories levels, even firmer prices may be forthcoming.

On the legume side of things, Red clover quotes are now in the 70 to 85 ¢/lb. range, with alsike clover quotes hovering in the \$1.10 to \$1.25/lb. range. Sweet clover seed quotes remain in the 50 to 70 ¢/lb. range. A few fields in the Peace region will have to wait for their clover harvests to be completed in the spring.

With low inventories, most price quotes remain at historically high levels. Prices should remain very firm for this winter, with the potential for better price improvement.

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	Fleat 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
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
May 8	48-50	55-60	140-165	160-170	105-115	130-140	70-75	85-90	160-180	65-70	100-120	60-80
June 4	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100-125	65-75
July 3	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100	65-75
Aug 1	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100	50-70
Sept 4	50	55-60	170-185	190-205	115-135	140-155	80-82	95-110	165-180	65-75	100-110	50-70
Oct 2	50	55-60	170-190	190-205	115-140	145-160	80-85	95-110	165-180	65-80	110-120	50-70
Nov 6	50	55-60	170-190	190-205	115-140	145-160	75-85	95-110	165-180	75-85	110-120	50-70
Dec 4	55	60-65	175-200	200-220	115-140	145-160	75-85	95-110	165-180	75-85	110-125	50-70

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

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