

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – July 3, 2012

With retail sales by grass and legume seed companies and processors winding down, there's not much new activity to report for the grass and legume seed markets. We do know that inventories levels are now low for most species, which should keep prices for new crop strong. Most grass and legume seed species price quotes continue to be quoted at high levels, but the wait will now be on to see what this year's production brings.

Creeping red fescue quotes remain around 50 ¢/lb, with fall quotes up to 55 ¢/lb. Certified boreal is quoted at a 5 ¢/lb premium. The Oregon turf grass seed harvest is now underway, with the Canadian creeping red fescue harvest still a month away. We'll have to see what sort of production Oregon has, and with creeping red fescue acres well down in the Peace region, no one is expecting a huge crop out of Canada.

Inventories of most forage grass species is down. This has supported prices going into the summer month, as smooth brome grass seed is still in the \$1.40 to \$1.60/lb range, with a 10-15 ¢/lb premium for certified. Early reports out of the US Midwest indicate that their smooth brome grass seed crop may be in trouble due to the intense heat wave affecting their growing areas. Meadow brome remains in the \$1.05 to \$1.15/lb range with certified Fleet meadow brome quotes in the \$1.30 to \$1.40 range. Timothy seed quotes remain historically high, in around 70 ¢/lb for common, with a 10 to 15 ¢/lb premium for certified.

On the legume side of things, alfalfa remains quoted in the \$1.65 to \$1.80/lb range, with red clover seed quotes settling into that 65 – 75 ¢/lb range. Last quotes for alsike clover seed was in still over \$1.00/lb, but with reports of more acres to be harvested this upcoming fall, prices could be pressured down. Sweet clover seed quotes remain in the 65 to 70 ¢/lb range.

As mentioned in my 1st report, low inventories and low 2012 production acres should keep grass and legume seed quotes strong for the next few months. However, until new production and demand is determined later this summer, don't expect quotes to become firm until actual processor/end user business starts taking place.

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
July 5-11	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
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

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