

## Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – June 5, 2012

It's that time of year for the grass and legume seed industry when quotes only become firm when business is done. However, with low production the past few years, inventories levels are low, so no one knows how much seed is still left out there in growers hands. End users are not beating down the doors offering huge bucks for last remaining inventory, as price levels for most grass and legume seed crops remain above historical price averages. With new crop in the ground and retail season slowing down, most processing plants are down to minimal cleaning and waiting to see what demand will build for this upcoming crop.

Creeping red fescue quotes are still a steady 50 ¢/lb, with fall quotes at 55 ¢/lb. There's talk of 60 ¢/lb offered for later winter deliveries. Prices though, depending what happens with turf grass seed production in the USA, has the potential to move up, as acres are desperately low in the Peace country. As well, with the Canadian currency exchange favoring the US dollar, this should push local quotes up.

Quotes for forage grass seed remain strong, but have not changed from last month. Smooth brome grass quotes remain in the \$1.30 to \$1.55/lb range, with certified Carlton showing a 10 ¢/lb premium. Meadow brome grass seed quotes remain in the 1.05 to \$1.15/lb range for common, with Certified Fleet meadow brome quoted up to \$1.20/lb, after royalties. Timothy seed quotes remain in the 70 to 75 ¢/lb range, with certified climax quotes showing a 10 to 20 ¢/lb premium, Very strong prices for timothy seed. But, like other species, timothy seed production acres for this upcoming year, across the prairies, is expected to be down. Current inventories of most forage seed grass species are short.

Red clover seed prices quotes have settled in the 65 to 70 ¢/lb range, while the alsike clover seed continues to be quoted in the \$1.00 to \$1.20 / lb range. How much seed is left out there is another story. Strong prices since last fall has seen a lot of this inventory moved from farm to processor. Sweet clover quotes remain in the 65 to 75 ¢/lb range. Alfalfa seed quotes for common seed also remain strong, anywhere from \$1.60 to \$1.80/lb. Quotes for Certified varieties are higher.

Low inventories and 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

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