

Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Data: 2013-2014 Grass and Legume Seed Exports

Overview:

Canadian grass and legume seed exports dropped for the second consecutive year, after a nice trade rebound in 2011/12. Since that year, which saw exports at 111.9 million lbs., exports have fallen by over 15 million lbs., with the latest data showing 96.25 million lbs. of seed being exported in 2013/14. This past years' trade was led by alfalfa seed exports (25.0 million lbs.), which reclaimed the spot as Canada's most exported grass or legume seed crop from creeping red fescue (22.5 million lbs.). Perennial ryegrass seed exports continued to hold down the #3 spot with 11.5 million lbs. in exports.



Although seed amounts declined, the value of this export sector continued to rise. 2013/14 export trade saw the value of the crop exceed \$136 million. This was the highest export value amount since 2007/08, where \$144.7 million worth of exports came out of Canada. However, 2007/08 saw this value obtained through 163 million lbs. of exports.

Total Canadian exports remained almost 23 million lbs. below the 10 year average.

Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Quantity and Species

Exports of Canadian grass and legume seed continues to be led by alfalfa seed, creeping red fescue, and perennial ryegrass.

Alfalfa seed exports increased by over 6 million lbs. from the previous year, a 31% increase! This marked the 3rd consecutive year of increased alfalfa seed exports, with common and certified seed split between 40 – 60% the past number of years. 2013/14 saw certified seed exports gain the upper hand again, accounting for 51.8% of exports.



Alfalfa seed harvest, Manitoba

Although **creeping red fescue** exports reached over 22.5 million lbs., this was a decrease of 2.6 million lbs. from 2012/13. However, although common seed exports of “creeper” increased by ½ a million lbs., exports of certified seed fell by over 3 million lbs. Typically, most certified “creeper”, if not contracted back to an USA company, ends up overseas, primarily into the EU. However, 2013/14 trade data show 68% of Canadian certified creeping red fescue production headed to the USA, compared to 52% and 51% the previous two years.

Perennial ryegrass seed, despite claiming the 3rd most exported crop spot (11.52 million lbs.), took the biggest drop of all Canadian grass/legume seed exports, falling from the previous year by over 5.7 million lbs.! With USA production geared up again, fewer contracts were offered to Canadian producers. Canadian exports were at least 15 million lbs. annually since 2005/06, and had reached exports of over 30 million lbs. in both 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Timothy seed exports hit its' highest level in the past 7 years (8.3 million lbs.), with certified seed now dominating the timothy seed market. 2013/14 saw certified timothy seed varieties accounting for over 98% of seed exports. In 2005/06, when 15.1 million lbs. of timothy seed was exported, certified and common seed exported were at 52% and 48% respectively. Although 2013/14 saw 8.3 million lbs. of timothy seed exported, it is still well below exports obtained by Canada from 2002/03 to 2006/07, when over 10 million lbs. of timothy was exported annually. The Netherlands accounted for 45% of Canadian timothy seed exports (excluding the USA – see footnote) in 2013/14.

Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Crop Year (July to June) by Quantity-millions of lbs														
	Jul 02- Jun 03	Jul 03- Jun 04	Jul 04- Jun 05	Jul 05- Jun 06	Jul 06- Jun 07	Jul 07- Jun 08	Jul 08- Jun 09	Jul 09- Jun 10	Jul 10- Jun 11	Jul 11- Jun 12	Jul 12- Jun 13	Jul 13- Jun 14	10 yr average	% change from 12/13 to 13/14
Total: World	106.64	113.24	108.31	136.01	166.77	163.16	119.49	81.35	91.35	111.88	99.80	96.25	119.14	96.4%
Alfalfa - certified	8.49	12.98	6.08	5.81	13.88	11.12	10.62	6.48	6.35	7.95	9.73	12.95	9.10	133.1%
Alfalfa -o/t certified	13.72	12.81	11.16	10.68	20.61	14.57	13.78	8.94	8.71	8.47	9.24	12.04	11.90	130.2%
Total Alfalfa	22.22	25.79	17.24	16.49	34.48	25.69	24.40	15.42	15.05	16.43	18.98	24.99	21.00	131.7%
Clover, Alsike	1.29	1.54	1.45	2.04	2.41	2.94	1.92	1.70	2.72	2.62	2.26	1.25	2.16	55.2%
Clover, Red - double cut	1.91	2.36	0.60	0.51	1.59	1.39	1.42	0.15	0.35	0.26	0.53	0.77	0.91	144.0%
Clover, Red - nes	4.24	4.23	2.73	4.07	4.52	3.93	2.76	1.74	2.87	3.14	3.07	4.67	3.31	152.2%
Clover, Sweet	1.21	1.63	0.98	1.28	1.33	1.06	1.04	1.20	1.23	1.61	1.09	1.13	1.25	103.1%
Clover - white	0.26	0.27	0.20	0.13	0.27	0.20	0.18	0.04	0.34	0.12	0.09	1.13	0.19	1232.2%
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.97	1.35	1.00	1.23	1.20	1.43	1.72	0.87	0.81	1.70	1.20	0.71	1.25	59.1%
Clover - nes	0.26	0.68	0.37	0.51	0.31	0.21	0.15	0.47	0.13	0.29	0.36	0.38	0.35	107.0%
Fescue, Creeping red - cert	13.39	12.19	17.06	10.45	4.49	10.17	8.16	4.84	6.24	14.05	6.03	2.97	9.37	49.3%
Fescue, Creeping red - o/t cert	26.54	26.26	28.99	43.70	45.13	39.42	24.48	16.49	13.85	13.01	19.07	19.52	27.04	102.4%
Total Creeping Red Fescue	39.93	38.46	46.05	54.14	49.62	49.59	32.64	21.33	20.09	27.06	25.11	22.50	36.41	89.6%
Fescue, nes	0.61	0.96	0.89	0.97	1.00	0.71	0.86	0.56	0.58	0.62	0.31	0.46	0.74	148.2%
Rye grass, annual	2.72	3.93	3.09	7.66	7.95	3.13	2.50	2.22	3.05	2.44	2.58	1.37	3.86	53.3%
Rye grass, perennial	5.22	6.27	9.85	17.75	33.97	38.63	28.09	15.46	21.19	27.24	17.29	11.52	21.57	66.6%
Fescue, tall	4.83	4.29	2.91	2.28	3.19	3.70	2.19	3.00	2.93	3.56	1.78	2.00	2.98	112.5%
Blue grass, Kentucky	0.76	1.15	1.00	1.70	1.07	1.41	0.96	0.72	0.72	0.56	1.15	0.43	1.04	37.3%
Bent grass	0.01	0.17	0.24	0.08	0.12	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.01	0.02	0.13	0.08	525.5%
Brome grass, meadow	0.32	0.38	0.56	0.72	0.80	0.60	0.49	0.56	0.82	0.77	1.35	0.66	0.70	48.7%
Brome grass, nes	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.11	0.18	0.16	0.29	0.31	0.47	0.34	0.00	0.20	1.4%
Brome grass, smooth	0.84	0.30	0.51	1.53	0.49	0.79	0.86	0.87	0.84	1.31	0.50	0.37	0.80	73.4%
Fescue, meadow	0.59	1.52	1.58	0.16	0.44	0.68	0.52	0.14	0.12	0.37	0.67	1.05	0.62	155.8%
Orchard grass	0.01	0.20	0.08	0.10	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.19	0.11	0.12	0.08	106.9%
Timothy - certified	5.77	6.61	6.44	7.97	7.56	7.30	3.41	3.69	5.05	7.81	7.57	8.16	6.34	107.9%
Timothy - o/t certified	6.26	6.05	4.37	7.17	3.44	0.79	0.22	0.10	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.13	2.28	61.4%
Total Timothy	12.03	12.67	10.81	15.14	11.00	8.09	3.63	3.79	5.25	8.03	7.78	8.30	8.62	106.6%
Wheatgrass, crested	0.76	1.40	1.15	2.66	1.20	1.67	1.16	0.77	1.29	1.69	2.37	0.95	1.53	39.8%
Wheatgrass, nes	2.56	1.31	1.99	2.01	2.36	1.80	0.65	0.83	0.90	1.30	1.07	0.71	1.42	66.7%
Wild rye	0.28	0.24	0.29	0.23	0.32	0.52	1.60	0.84	0.29	0.30	0.91	1.26	0.55	139.2%
Seeds of forage plants, nes	2.76	2.08	2.69	2.60	6.98	14.78	9.53	8.28	9.39	9.80	8.86	9.38	7.50	105.9%
Total: World	106.64	113.24	108.31	136.01	166.77	163.16	119.49	81.35	91.35	111.88	99.80	96.25	119.14	96.4%

Other points to note are:

- Red clover seed exports (4.67 million lbs.), excluding double cut red clover, saw exports rise above the 10 year average. Data shows that this export figure is the highest in the past 11 years.
- Meadow fescue exports have increased the past 3 years.
- Only half as much meadow bromegrass was exported in 2013/14 compared to the previous year.
- With a lack of production, smooth bromegrass seed exports continue to drop, despite historically high farm gate prices. Exports dropped for the 4th consecutive year, and 2013/14 only saw 370,000 lbs. exported, compared to the 10 year average of 800,000 lbs.
- Lower Canadian production of the wheatgrasses has resulted in less exports, with crested wheatgrass exports less than 40% from 2012/13. Other wheatgrass species saw exports drop by at least 30%. A lot of on-farm inventory moved the previous year.

Destinations:

Canadian producers still rely heavily on exports to the USA for business. The USA accounts for over 61% of Canada’s grass and legume seed exports. However, 2013/14 trade saw China become Canada’s 2nd largest trading partner, surpassing the Netherlands. These three countries account for over 83% of Canada’s grass and legume seed trade. In addition to these three countries, only three other countries imported over 1 million lbs. of Canadian grass and legume seed in 13/14. Two countries, the United Kingdom and Poland had imported over 1 million lbs. the previous year. In total, Canada exported to 36 countries around the world in 2013/14.

Canadian Exports of Grass/Legume Seed by Crop Year: millions of lbs.						
	Jul 09- Jun 10	Jul 10- Jun 11	Jul 11- Jun 12	Jul 12- Jun 13	Jul 13- Jun 14	% of CDN Exports
Total Canadian Exports	81.35	91.35	111.88	99.80	96.25	100.0%
United States	61.42	62.02	63.93	62.57	59.52	61.8%
China	5.20	4.99	10.03	8.74	11.66	12.1%
Netherlands	3.74	8.12	12.67	10.14	9.38	9.7%
Germany	2.68	4.09	8.40	5.20	4.24	4.4%
Italy	1.04	2.97	3.10	1.47	2.43	2.5%
Denmark	0.59	1.01	1.53	1.91	2.16	2.2%
other 30 countries (13/14)	6.68	8.15	12.21	9.78	6.86	7.1%

American imports centered around three species, those being alfalfa, creeping red fescue, and perennial ryegrass, with imports (in millions of lbs.) at 16, 21 and 6.4 respectively. The only other category showing over 1 million lbs. in imports was “seeds of forage plants, not elsewhere specified”, that is, grass and legume seed mixtures. USA customs does not recognize timothy seed as its’ own category, and is therefore included here.



Other points in regards to USA imports from Canada are:

- Meadow brome grass imports fell to 70,000 lbs in 2013/14 (2012/13 = 160,000 lbs.)
- Tall fescue production continues to drop. 2013/14 only saw 440,000 lbs. of seed imported, well below the previous 4 year average of 1.5 million lbs. annually.
- Crested wheatgrass imports fell from 2.32 million lbs. to 750,000 lbs. Other wheatgrass species saw their imports into the USA fall from over 1 million lbs. to 530,000 lbs.
- Total value of seed imported by US companies was \$87.8 million, up \$7.8 million from the previous year. This, despite 3.5 million less lbs. of seed imported from Canada.

Canadian Exports of Forage Seeds to USA by Crop Year - millions of lbs.					
	Jul 09- Jun 10	Jul 10- Jun 11	Jul 11- Jun 12	Jul 12- Jun 13	Jul 13- Jun 14
World	81.35	91.35	111.88	99.80	96.25
United States	61.42	62.02	63.93	62.57	59.52
Alfalfa - certified	5.13	3.67	4.93	4.91	5.85
Alfalfa -o/t certified	8.50	7.73	6.17	7.99	10.18
Alfalfa - total	13.63	11.40	11.10	12.90	16.03
Clover, Red - double cut	0.15	0.24	0.21	0.22	0.40
Clover, Red - nes	1.40	1.12	1.13	0.80	1.21
Clover, Sweet	1.06	0.90	0.84	0.76	0.74
Clover, Alsike	1.03	0.92	0.64	0.62	0.65
Clover - white	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.01
Clover - nes	0.28	0.04	0.25	0.36	0.38
Fescue, Creeping red-cert	3.58	4.74	7.33	3.06	2.02
Fescue, Creeping red o/t cert	16.28	13.15	12.56	18.44	19.16
Creeping Red Fescue-total	19.86	17.89	19.89	21.50	21.17
Fescue, tall	1.35	2.01	1.72	0.99	0.44
Brome grass, meadow	0.07	0.09	0.13	0.16	0.07
Fescue, nes	0.35	0.54	0.35	0.30	0.31
Blue grass, Kentucky	0.56	0.46	0.28	0.05	0.02
Rye grass, annual	0.20	0.46	0.48	1.23	0.41
Rye grass, perennial	10.75	14.13	13.85	8.20	6.41
Brome grass, meadow	0.29	0.27	0.56	0.94	0.37
Brome grass, smooth	0.50	0.44	1.08	0.41	0.08
Brome grass, nes	0.29	0.30	0.34	0.14	0.00
Wheatgrass, crested	0.54	0.73	0.65	2.32	0.75
Wheatgrass, nes	0.58	0.80	1.14	1.04	0.53
Bent grass	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.13
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.34	0.30	0.58	0.58	0.25
Orchard grass	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.08
Wild rye	0.08	0.08	0.30	0.38	0.12
Seeds of forage plants, nes	8.04	8.84	8.37	8.56	8.97

Source: Statistics Canada, International Merchandise Trade

Exports to **China** centered on alfalfa seed (no surprise), perennial ryegrass, and red clover, with tonnage being 3.87, 2.82, and 1.13 million lbs. respectively. Chinese usage of Canadian alfalfa seed increased for the 5th year in a row, while usage of Canadian red clover seed is starting to increase. Imports of Canadian red clover seed increased for the 5th consecutive year, surpassing 1 million lbs. In total, China imported 11.66 million lbs. of Canadian grass and legume seed.



Canadian Exports of Forage Seeds to China by Crop Year (Millions of lbs.)					
	Jul 09- Jun 10	Jul 10- Jun 11	Jul 11- Jun 12	Jul 12- Jun 13	Jul 13- Jun 14
World	81.35	91.35	111.88	99.80	96.25
China	5.20	4.99	10.03	8.74	11.66
Alfalfa - certified	0.07	0.28	0.89	1.48	2.65
Alfalfa -o/t certified	0.03	0.17	0.85	0.95	1.22
Alfalfa - total	0.10	0.45	1.73	2.43	3.87
Clover, Red - double cut				0.05	0.15
Clover, Red - nes	0.17	0.37	0.64	0.73	1.13
Clover, Sweet					0.09
Clover, Alsike	0.20	0.03			
Clover - white			0.08		0.72
Fescue, Creeping red-cert	0.04	0.28	0.02	0.09	0.11
Fescue, Creeping red o/t cert	0.04	0.50	0.22	0.16	0.13
Fescue, tall	1.36	0.25	0.96	0.30	0.98
Fescue, nes	0.02		0.01		
Blue grass, Kentucky	0.15	0.04	0.11	0.27	0.04
Rye grass, annual	0.15	0.10	0.04	0.05	
Rye grass, perennial	1.92	2.07	4.87	3.90	2.82
Brome grass, meadow	0.02	0.18	0.04	0.11	0.13
Brome grass, smooth	0.32	0.23	0.18	0.08	0.22
Brome grass, nes			0.13	0.18	
Wheatgrass, crested	0.15	0.38	0.95	0.05	0.05
Wheatgrass, nes	0.19	0.06		0.02	0.14
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.14		0.05	0.02	0.05
Timothy - certified			0.01		
Timothy - o/t certified			0.00	0.04	0.05
Wild rye	0.22	0.08		0.26	0.99
Seeds of forage plants, nes	0.10				

- Tall fescue imports of were almost 1 million lbs. (.98)
- Perennial ryegrass imports (2.82 million lbs.) accounted for almost 25% of Canadian perennial ryegrass exports!
- Although only 221,000 lbs. of smooth brome grass seed was imported from Canada, it accounted for over 60 % of total Canadian smooth brome grass seed exports.
- Chinese red clover imports from Canada (1.13 million lbs.) nearly matched the amount imported by the USA (1.21 million lbs.) but 350,000 lbs. less than Canada's no. 1 buyer, Germany.
- China remains Canada's 2nd largest buyer of alfalfa seed behind the USA, importing 15.5% of Canada's total alfalfa seed exports.
- In total, China imported \$15.5 worth of Canadian grass and legume seed in 2013/14.

Other points regarding China includes:

The chart below compares Canada's major importing countries, and looks at how much of each major Canadian grass/legume seed crop is exported to each particular country, and the value it has on Canadian exports. The six countries listed below account for almost 93% of Canada's total grass/legume seed trade by value.

Canadian Grass/Legume Seed Exports to Top 6 Countries by Major Crop: 2013/2014 (millions of lbs)													
	Alfalfa		Perennial Ryegrass		Creeping Red Fescue		Timothy		Red Clover		Total Value (Mil. CDN \$)	% of Total CDN Export Value	
	lbs, imported by	% of CDN Exports	lbs, imported by	% of CDN Exports	lbs, imported by	% of CDN Exports	lbs, imported by	% of CDN Exports	lbs, imported by	% of CDN Exports			
USA	16.03	64.2%	6.45	56.0%	21.32	94.8%	n/a		1.21	25.9%	87.80	64.2%	
China	3.87	15.5%	2.82	24.4%	0.24	1.1%	0.05	0.6%	1.13	24.2%	15.50	11.3%	
Netherlands	1.64	6.6%	1.46	12.7%	0.40	1.8%	3.73	45.0%	0.00	0.0%	12.30	9.0%	
Italy	1.01	4.0%	0.06	0.5%	0	0.0%	0.06	0.7%	0.64	13.6%	3.14	2.3%	
Denmark	0.28	1.1%	0.13	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2.90	2.1%	
Germany	0.58	2.3%	0.25	2.1%	0	0.0%	1.39	16.8%	1.48	31.6%	5.30	3.9%	
Total Canada	24.99	93.7%	11.52	96.9%	22.50	97.6%	8.30	63.1%	4.67	95.3%	136.77	92.8%	

lbs imported by = millions of lbs., Total Value = Millions of CDN \$ (for total grass/legume seed imported by that country), CDN = Canadian
Note: CDN timothy exports to USA is not recorded as such by USA customs and is entered under "Seeds of forage plants, nes"

Value of Canadian Grass/Legume Seed Exports:

When one looks at the trade data from the past 5 years, you can clearly see the average export price for the various grass and legume seed species rising. Not surprising, as Canadian production had dropped significantly, primarily due to a lack of acres, and in some instances, poor weather condition. Lower production has brought about low supplies of many species. Despite many of our grass and legume seed crops reaching historical high farm gate prices, new and previous growers have been reluctant to come into or back into this agriculture sector. Many species have doubled in their average export price over the past 5 years. Most price quotes remain in historically high levels.

Value of Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports (value - lbs - avg export price)															
	Jul 09- Jun 10	Jul 09- Jun 10	avg export price	Jul 10- Jun 11	Jul 10- Jun 11	avg export price	Jul 11- Jun 12	Jul 11- Jun 12	avg export price	Jul 12- Jun 13	Jul 12- Jun 13	avg export price	Jul 13- Jun 14	Jul 13- Jun 14	avg export price
	\$	lbs	¢/lb	\$	lbs	¢/lb	\$	lbs	¢/lb	\$	lbs	¢/lb	\$	lbs	¢/lb
Total: World	79.02	81.35		81.21	91.35		119.79	111.88		124.53	99.80		136.77	96.25	
Alfalfa - certified	13.12	6.48	2.03	11.04	6.35	1.74	16.69	7.95	2.10	20.05	9.73	2.06	26.97	12.95	2.08
Alfalfa - o/t certified	15.69	8.94	1.75	15.59	8.71	1.79	17.00	8.47	2.01	19.83	9.24	2.15	29.00	12.04	2.41
Total Alfalfa	28.82	15.42	1.87	26.63	15.05	1.77	33.68	16.43	2.05	39.89	18.98	2.10	55.97	24.99	2.24
Clover, Alsike	1.24	1.70	0.73	2.14	2.72	0.79	2.20	2.62	0.84	2.31	2.26	1.02	2.53	1.25	2.02
Clover, Red - double cut	0.27	0.15	1.79	0.40	0.35	1.15	0.35	0.26	1.35	0.57	0.53	1.06	0.91	0.77	1.18
Clover, Red - nes	1.69	1.74	0.97	2.18	2.87	0.76	2.68	3.14	0.85	2.32	3.07	0.75	3.87	4.67	0.83
Clover, Sweet	1.07	1.20	0.89	1.24	1.23	1.01	1.51	1.61	0.94	1.15	1.09	1.05	1.26	1.13	1.12
Clover - white	0.06	0.04	1.46	0.30	0.34	0.88	0.14	0.12	1.15	0.10	0.09	1.06	0.93	1.13	0.82
Bird's-foot trefoil	1.92	0.87	2.21	2.29	0.81	2.84	5.14	1.70	3.02	5.06	1.20	4.21	2.67	0.71	3.77
Clover - nes	0.42	0.47	0.88	0.11	0.13	0.90	0.49	0.29	1.66	0.57	0.36	1.59	0.71	0.38	1.85
Fescue, Creeping red-cert	3.57	4.84	0.74	3.56	6.24	0.57	9.95	14.05	0.71	4.87	6.03	0.81	2.78	2.97	0.94
Fescue, Creeping red-o/t cert	11.05	16.49	0.67	7.75	13.85	0.56	8.40	13.01	0.65	13.83	19.07	0.72	17.70	19.52	0.91
Total Creeping Red Fescue	14.61	21.33	0.69	11.31	20.09	0.56	18.34	27.06	0.68	18.70	25.11	0.74	20.48	22.50	0.91
Fescue, nes	0.44	0.56	0.78	0.53	0.58	0.91	0.52	0.62	0.85	0.47	0.31	1.51	0.51	0.46	1.10
Rye grass, annual	1.81	2.22	0.81	2.45	3.05	0.80	1.80	2.44	0.74	1.29	2.58	0.50	0.81	1.37	0.59
Rye grass, perennial	10.00	15.46	0.65	12.10	21.19	0.57	18.66	27.24	0.69	12.79	17.29	0.74	10.61	11.52	0.92
Fescue, tall	1.59	3.00	0.53	1.57	2.93	0.54	2.26	3.56	0.63	1.39	1.78	0.78	1.45	2.00	0.73
Blue grass, Kentucky	0.46	0.72	0.64	0.48	0.72	0.66	0.58	0.56	1.05	1.55	1.15	1.36	0.57	0.43	1.34
Bent grass	0.09	0.07	1.28	0.07	0.08	0.88	0.02	0.01	4.29	0.05	0.02	2.15	0.02	0.13	0.19
Brome grass, smooth	0.59	0.87	0.68	0.76	0.84	0.90	2.01	1.31	1.53	1.21	0.50	2.41	0.71	0.37	1.93
Brome grass, meadow	0.80	0.56	1.43	0.97	0.82	1.18	1.19	0.77	1.56	2.35	1.35	1.73	1.24	0.66	1.88
Brome grass, nes	0.20	0.29	0.69	0.23	0.31	0.75	0.63	0.47	1.32	0.66	0.34	1.93	0.02	0.00	3.26
Fescue, meadow	0.11	0.14	0.82	0.09	0.12	0.78	0.32	0.37	0.85	0.60	0.67	0.89	0.72	1.05	0.68
Orchard grass	0.02	0.01	1.86	0.02	0.01	1.79	0.24	0.19	1.31	0.16	0.11	1.39	0.17	0.12	1.41
Timothy - certified	3.35	3.69	0.91	4.21	5.05	0.83	9.25	7.81	1.18	10.03	7.57	1.33	10.67	8.16	1.31
Timothy - o/t certified	0.09	0.10	0.89	0.15	0.20	0.75	0.24	0.22	1.12	0.27	0.22	1.25	0.15	0.13	1.12
Total Timothy	3.43	3.79	0.91	4.36	5.25	0.83	9.49	8.03	1.18	10.31	7.78	1.32	10.82	8.30	1.30
Wheatgrass, crested	0.91	0.77	1.19	1.38	1.29	1.07	2.22	1.69	1.32	4.48	2.37	1.89	2.07	0.95	2.19
Wheatgrass, nes	0.85	0.83	1.02	1.21	0.90	1.36	2.54	1.30	1.95	2.52	1.07	2.36	1.59	0.71	2.24
Wild rye	0.82	0.84	0.98	0.31	0.29	1.05	0.55	0.30	1.84	1.72	0.91	1.89	2.28	1.26	1.80
Seeds of forage plants, nes	6.79	8.28	0.82	8.08	9.39	0.86	12.24	9.80	1.25	12.33	8.86	1.39	13.86	9.38	1.48
Total: World	79.02	81.35		81.21	91.35		119.79	111.88		124.53	99.80		136.77	96.25	

\$ = millions of CDN dollars lbs = millions of avg price = \$/lb

nes = not elsewhere specified, o/t = other than

Canadian Exports by Province:

By province, exports of Canadian grass and legumes seed is led by Manitoba, which exported over 40 million lbs. of seed in 2013/2014 (mainly alfalfa seed and perennial ryegrass), bring in over \$63 million into her economy through these sales, let alone spinoff effects. Alberta, relying greatly upon grass seed production in the Peace River region (creeping red fescue/timothy) and alfalfa seed production from the Brooks region, saw over 35 million lbs. of seed exported, valued at over \$43 million. Saskatchewan exported over 13 million lbs. of seed, bring over \$20 million into that province. However, unlike Manitoba and Alberta, which saw exports in 2013/14 drop, Saskatchewan exports increased by over 4.7 million lbs.

Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Province (Quantity and Value)										
	Jul 09-Jun 10		Jul 10-Jun 11		Jul 11-Jun 12		Jul 12-Jun 13		Jul 13-Jun 14	
	Total Exports	Export Value	Total Exports	Export Value	Total Exports	Export Value	Total Exports	Export Value	Total Exports	Export Value
Canada	81.35	79.02	91.35	81.21	111.88	119.79	99.80	124.53	96.25	136.77
Manitoba	38.06	35.31	43.84	37.88	53.68	56.94	44.84	57.84	40.50	63.69
Alberta	29.58	25.92	31.51	25.50	37.23	33.60	39.16	42.32	35.44	43.65
Saskatchewan	8.89	12.53	11.04	12.73	11.36	16.44	8.55	13.88	13.32	20.22
Ontario	1.60	2.20	1.89	2.09	4.56	7.98	4.99	8.47	3.42	5.44
Quebec	0.80	1.24	1.21	1.58	3.13	3.35	0.57	0.77	1.93	2.46
British Columbia	2.33	1.77	1.68	1.32	1.81	1.30	1.60	1.14	1.60	1.25
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04
New Brunswick	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.11	0.17	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Nfld & Lab.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.06	0.07	0	0
P.E.I.	0.04	0.01	0.12	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Exports = millions of lbs, Export Value = millions of CDN \$

Please note, exports from some provinces may contain seed supplies moved inter-provincially (primarily from western Canada) but recorded by Customs Canada as if exported out of that particular province.

Summary:

The production of grass and legume seed contributed to over \$136 million into Canada's agriculture sector in exports alone. Domestic usage of grass and legume seed is not accounted for. Trade data from the latest crop year (2013/14) clearly shows rising values, but exports quantities are down. There is room for seed production expansion, but with changing agricultural usage ("as needed buying" by many end users), growers no longer want to be the carriers of supply. Yet another factor affecting their decisions to grow these commodities.



Alsike clover field for seed: Peace River Region - 2014

Note: Date Source from Statistics Canada, International Merchandise Trade. Data prepared by Marion Harry, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Economics and Competitiveness Division, Statistics and Data Development Branch

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