

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – July 2, 2013

With the good spring conditions throughout Alberta, retail movement of grass and legume seed is reported to be very good, however, that window has now passed. With spring buying and selling out of the way, processors and growers alike are waiting to see how this years' seed crop turns out.

Creeping red fescue pricing has shifted into fall mode, with prices now reflecting the previous fall prices quotes of 65 ¢/lb. Harvest is still a month away, but crops in the Peace look good. However, as mentioned in previous reports, 2013 acres for harvest are well down.

Forage grass seed continue to be firm, at least for now. Reports out of Kansas, where the US smooth brome grass seed crop is located, indicate a good seed crop on the horizon. Our very high seed quotes for smooth and meadow brome grass seed may see a fall by this autumn, with current prices falling, by then, by 50 to 60 ¢/lb., into the \$1.30 to \$1.50 range. However, until their crop actually comes off as expected, no concrete prices can be had. Timothy seed production, which is still concentrated in the Northern states in the US, is not influenced by the weather conditions in Kansas. Common timothy seed quotes remain in the 75 to 80 ¢/lb. range, but certified Climax timothy seed quotes have backed off.

On the legume side of things, alfalfa quotes continue to come in around \$1.65 to \$1.80/lb., with red clover quotes remaining in the 75 to 80 ¢/lb. range. Alsike quotes are still very strong, with quotes in the \$1.10 to \$1.20 range. However, with expected new supplies, expect prices to be pressured, at least for the fall. Sweet clover seed is in the 60 to 70 ¢/lb. range. All the legume quotes remain well above historical highs and given normal demand patterns, should continue so for the long term. Acres for harvest this year will remain low.

With retail season now over, everyone is waiting to see what the production of this year's seed crops will be. Barring large nearby export seed orders, the expected new crop will dictate prices in the near term. However, we do know that supplies of all species are low, seed production acres are low, and so there really isn't much room for crop shortfall this year.

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
Aug 2-11	42-45	50-55	60-78	70-90	75-90	100-120	50-55	55-70	130-145	65-75	75-95	50-80
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
Apr 10-12	48-50	55-60	130-155	160-165	120-125	135-145	70-75	85-90	160-170	65-70	100-110	60-80
Jun 4-12	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100-125	65-75
Aug 1-12	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100	50-70
Oct 2-12	50	55-60	170-190	190-205	115-140	145-160	80-85	95-110	165-180	65-80	110-120	50-70
Dec 4-12	55	60-65	175-200	200-220	115-140	145-160	75-85	95-110	165-180	75-85	110-125	50-70
May 1-13	58-60	63-65	170-220	200-240	130-175	170-200	75-80	95-110	165-180	75-80	110-120	60-70
Jun 4-13	60	65	200-220	220-260	130-175	170-200	75-80	95-110	165-180	75-80	110-120	60-70
Jul 2-13	65	65-70	180-220	200-260	130-175	170-200	75-80	85-100	165-180	78-80	110-120	60-70