

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – June 4, 2013

As the spring rush quiets down, grass and legume seed quotes continue to remain at historically high levels or even creep higher. Retail movement of seed is reported to be good, with demand for all forage species, further eroding available supplies.

There are reports that growers may finally be seeding new seed fields, as current prices remain attractive and seed has been moving out the door. But as long as grain and oilseed prices remain relatively high, the seed trade is waiting to see if more acres of all grass and legume seed crops, actually occurs.

Creeping red fescue quotes have moved to 60 ¢/lb., with fall prices in the 65 ¢/lb. area. Fall quotes for certified boreal creeping red fescue are around 70 ¢/lb. With the majority of Canada's creeping red fescue crossing the 49th parallel, and the Canadian dollar falling, price improvement, due to the dollar decline, could be in the forecast. In addition to the falling dollar, which should support prices, the expected lack of harvest acres this year could also affect prices this upcoming fall.

Forage grass seed continues to creep higher, well above historical average prices. Smooth brome grass seed quotes are now in the \$2.00 to \$2.20/lb. range, while certified smooth brome grass is commanding anywhere from \$2.40 to \$2.60/lb. Meadow brome grass quotes for common seed are in the \$1.60 to \$1.75/lb. range, while certified Fleet meadow brome quotes are as high as \$2.00/lb., but royalties have to be taken off. Common timothy seed quotes remain in the 75 to 80 ¢/lb. range, with certified Climax timothy seed now up to \$1.10/lb.

On the legume side of things, alfalfa quotes are coming in around \$1.65 to \$1.80/lb., while red clover quotes are at 75 to 80 ¢/lb. Alsike quotes are still very strong, with quotes in the \$1.10 to \$1.20 range. 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. Acres for harvest this year will remain low.

Most of the prairies are now under good moisture conditions, ideal for seeding of grass and hay fields. And with an increase in Canadian cattle numbers, and better forecasts for the livestock industry, the retail season is still not over for most processors.

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	48-50	55-60	130-155	160-165	120-125	135-145	70-75	85-90	160-170	65-70	100-110	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
Aug 1	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105-115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100	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
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
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

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

- prices in ¢/lb, last updated: June 4 - 2013