

EU Red Fescue Seed Production (to 2013)

Overview:

The world has 3 primary **red fescue seed production regions**, those being **1) Denmark**, **2) the Peace River Region** of Alberta, Canada and 3) the Silverton Hills located in the Willamette Valley in **Oregon, USA**. Although Denmark dominates grass seed production in the EU, a few other European nations have production acres to help with world demand for this turf grass species.



European data (Eurostat) shown here is up to date to 2013. Acreage figures are available for 2014, however, production numbers for Denmark have yet to be published. As well, 2015 acreage figures are also available, with the exception again being Danish information. Once these numbers are published, a more current report can be constructed.

EU Production: 2009 to 2013/2014

Following a decrease of red fescue acres from 2009 to 2010 of over 16,000 acres (a 21% drop in acres), EU acres have averaged close to **58,000** the 5 years from 2010 to 2014. Average total production for the period 2009 to 2013 is around **89 million lbs. annually**. The other major red fescue producing regions typically produce 25 to 30 million lbs. (Peace region) and 8 to 12 million lbs. (Oregon). Note: totals for the Peace and Oregon regions do NOT include other fine fescue species as Oregon annually produces close to 20 million lbs. of all fine fescues. Very little other fine fescues are grown in the Peace compared to red fescue.

Total EU Red Fescue Seed Production (Acres and lbs.)		
Year	Acres	Millions of lbs
2009	80,470.9	88.0
2010	63,629.3	102.3
2011	59,144.1	86.9
2012	52,779.9	72.8
2013	58,152.8	84.8
2014	57,589.9	

* 2013 data does not include Polish Production (est. @ 3 Mil. lbs)
Hungary and Italy production includes imports



EU Red Fescue Production by Country (2013)

Although there are now 28 countries in the EU, only 50% of them grow some red fescue. However, EU red fescue seed production is dominated by Denmark, which accounted for over **70%** of total production in 2013. Denmark produced over 74 million lbs. of red fescue seed in 2013, compared to approximately 14 million produced by the other 13 countries combined. With her coastal climate providing excellent red fescue production conditions, yields for Danish red fescue average close to 1700 lbs. /ac. Although having fewer acres than Poland, Sweden still produces the 2nd most red fescue seed in the EU, (3.9 million lbs. in 2013), Polish production will be similar to Germany, although it has more acres. Two other countries have over 2000 acres of red fescue production, those being France and the Czech Republic.

EU Red Fescue Seed Production by Country: 2013			2014 Data (incomplete)	
Country	Acres	Millions of lbs	Acres	Millions of lbs
Denmark	40,854.4	74.0	39,960.2	n/a
Poland	3,472.4	n/a	3,230.8	n/a
Sweden	3,344.8	3.9	5,191.6	4.8
Germany	3,369.8	2.8	2,973.1	2.4
France	2,362.1	2.1	1,862.8	2.3
Czech Rep	2,829.5	0.7	2,497.4	1.0
United Kingdom	408.1	0.5	576.8	0.3
Netherlands	460.6	0.4	410.4	0.3
Latvia	513.0	0.2	430.9	0.2
Hungary	312.4	0.1	298.7	0.1
Estonia	132.2	0.0	114.0	0.0
Italy	-	0.0	-	0.0
Slovakia	93.5	0.0	43.3	0.1
Belgium	32.5	n/a	17.9	n/a
Total	58,152.8	84.8	57,589.9	

Note: 2013 Polish/Belgium production not available, estimated @ 3 Mil. lbs.
 Note: 2014 Danish, Polish and Belgium production not available

EU data for 2014 has been included in the above chart, as acreage information is complete, but is still missing production data from Denmark and Poland.

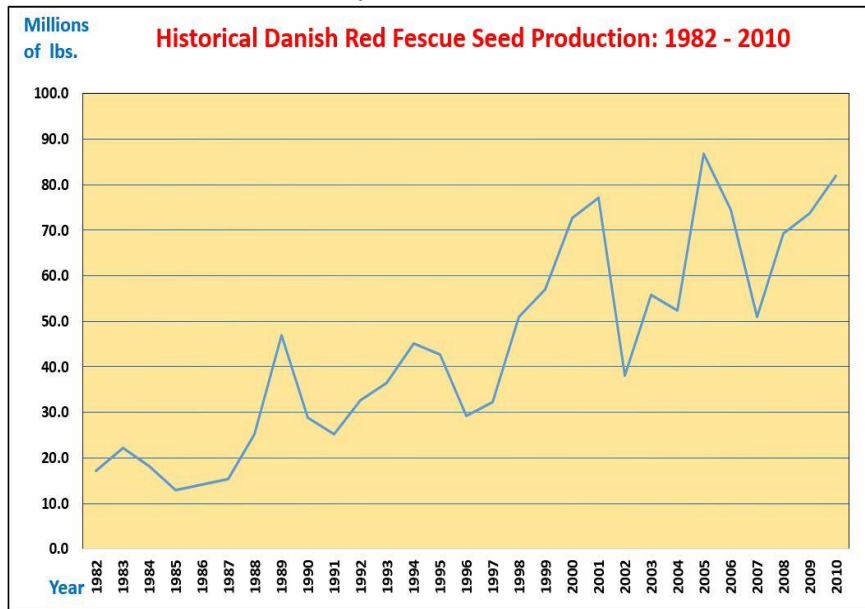
Danish Production: 2009 to 2014

Denmark has been a world leader in the production of red fescue, and still stands as the country with the largest production in the world. Although grass seed production has fallen off in Canada and the USA, the 74 million lbs. of red fescue production in Denmark in 2013 was above the previous 10 year average of 69.6 million lbs. With only a modest decrease in acres in 2014, one would expect production the production number to be around 70 to 75 million lbs. (number yet to be released)

Danish Red Fescue Seed Production: 2009 to 2014			
Year	Acres	Millions of lbs	Avg Yield
2009	52,399.4	73.8	1,407.9
2010	41,804.4	82.0	1,960.5
2011	38,804.1	68.8	1,774.2
2012	37,475.5	63.3	1,688.1
2013	44,438.1	74.0	1,664.3
2014	43,465.5	n/a	n/a

Note: 2014 Danish production not yet available

Historical Danish red fescue production is shown in the chart and table below, going back to 1982.



Historical Danish Red Fescue Seed		
Year	Production (Mil. of lbs)	Production (MT)
1982	17.10	7,757
1983	22.10	10,022
1984	18.14	8,229
1985	12.89	5,845
1986	14.19	6,434
1987	15.27	6,926
1988	25.18	11,421
1989	47.00	21,317
1990	28.88	13,097
1991	25.21	11,432
1992	32.59	14,783
1993	36.40	16,509
1994	45.21	20,506
1995	42.81	19,415
1996	29.32	13,298
1997	32.22	14,612
1998	51.04	23,149
1999	57.09	25,893
2000	72.77	33,007
2001	77.12	34,977
2002	38.05	17,259
2003	55.73	25,278
2004	52.44	23,785
2005	86.80	39,369
2006	74.59	33,830
2007	51.03	23,143
2008	69.19	31,383
2009	73.80	33,472
2010	81.99	37,185

Source: Danish SeedCouncil, Eurostat, ESCAA

E.U. Red Fescue Seed Production: Other Countries

There is a large dropoff in E.U. red fescue production acres after Denmark, with the next largest producer being **Sweden**, with almost 4,900 acres (2015). However, this is up down by over 7,000 acres from 2015. **Polish** production of red fescue ranks 3rd in the E.U., with Poland growing seed on almost 4,700 acres in 2015. Note: Polish production has not been updated for 5 of the 7 recording years. German production continues to average around 3,000 acres. One country of note is the **Netherlands**, which is saw acres drop 2,600+ 2009 to only 478 acres in 2015.

E.U. Red Fescue Seed Production by Country (acres and millions of lbs.)							
Country	Year	Acres	Millions of lbs	Country	Year	Acres	Millions of lbs
Denmark	2009	52,399.42	73.8	Czech Rep	2009	4,167.71	0.9
Denmark	2010	41,804.37	82.0	Czech Rep	2010	3,154.56	0.7
Denmark	2011	38,804.06	68.8	Czech Rep	2011	3,405.04	0.9
Denmark	2012	37,475.53	63.3	Czech Rep	2012	2,544.48	0.5
Denmark	2013	44,438.13	74.0	Czech Rep	2013	3,077.68	0.7
Denmark	2014	43,465.47		Czech Rep	2014	2,497.36	1.0
Denmark	2015	-		Czech Rep	2015	2,383.28	
Denmark: Average area (acres)		43,064.5		Czech Rep: Average area (acres)		3,032.9	
Sweden	2009	4,738.78	4.8	France	2009	3,048.42	3.1
Sweden	2010	4,870.72	4.6	France	2010	3,516.64	2.9
Sweden	2011	4,411.92	3.3	France	2011	3,851.44	3.6
Sweden	2012	4,027.52	3.5	France	2012	2,906.56	2.3
Sweden	2013	3,638.16	3.9	France	2013	2,569.28	2.1
Sweden	2014	5,646.96	4.8	France	2014	2,026.16	2.3
Sweden	2015	4,890.56		France	2015	2,041.04	
Sweden: Average area (acres)		4,603.5		France: Average area (acres)		2,851.4	
Poland	2009	5,925.22		Netherlands	2009	2,648.64	1.3
Poland	2010	6,544.72	3.7	Netherlands	2010	1,852.56	2.8
Poland	2011	5,954.48	5.1	Netherlands	2011	1,230.08	1.2
Poland	2012	4,364.80		Netherlands	2012	932.48	0.6
Poland	2013	3,777.04		Netherlands	2013	500.96	0.4
Poland	2014	3,514.16		Netherlands	2014	446.40	0.3
Poland	2015	4,684.72		Netherlands	2015	478.64	
Poland: Average area (acres)		4,966.4		Netherlands: Average area (acres)		1,155.7	
Germany	2009	3,882.44	2.5				
Germany	2010	3,844.00	3.0				
Germany	2011	3,605.92	2.6				
Germany	2012	3,144.64	1.8				
Germany	2013	3,665.44	2.8				
Germany	2014	3,233.92	2.4				
Germany	2015	2,832.16					
Germany: Average area (acres)		3,458.4					

Data Source: Eurostat, ESCAA

Summary:

Although world wide, grass seed production continues to be a minor crop compared to grains and oilseeds, the need and demand for the various grass and legume seed crops continues. E.U. red fescue production continues to center around Danish production (over 40,000 acres) with only 5 other E.U.nations dedicating over 2,000 to this turf grass species.



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June 16, 2016