

## USA Grass and Legume Seed Data: 2014-2015 Exports

### Overview:

American grass and legume seed exports saw the amount of seed exported fall by 19 million lbs. in the 2014-15 trade year, but due to higher prices, total value of these exports increased by \$11 million. Exports were once again led by annual ryegrass seed followed by sorghum/sudan seed. Alfalfa seed held on as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most exported seed crop. Grass seed mixture overtook tall fescue as the 4<sup>th</sup> most exported crop. Tall fescue seed exports of 35.5 million lbs. placed it 5<sup>th</sup> overall. Other crops with over 10 million lbs. in seed exports included perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, sudangrass, and forage seed mixtures.

The 401 million lbs. of seed exported in 2014-15 is 57 million lbs. less than the 458 million lb. record set in 2012-13. But the total value of exports in 2014-15 (\$386.8 million) is second only to 2012-13 when sales hit over \$409 million.

USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Crop Year (July to June)												
Product	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>252,738</b>	<b>360.6</b>	<b>298,062</b>	<b>384.1</b>	<b>375,961</b>	<b>454.1</b>	<b>409,042</b>	<b>458.2</b>	<b>377,712</b>	<b>420.2</b>	<b>386,869</b>	<b>401.7</b>
Ryegrass, annual	24,540	72.9	28,412	79.3	35,121	94.4	45,509	117.1	45,984	115.4	45,152	112.3
Grass Seed, other	35,381	40.5	37,704	39.2	51,680	51.6	49,014	44.6	43,845	36.6	43,157	40.0
Ryegrass, Perennial	15,282	25.2	25,377	40.2	34,584	47.4	32,869	41.1	32,866	36.9	28,662	32.4
Fescue, Tall	17,657	40.5	20,309	38.7	30,689	47.9	28,993	37.7	35,530	45.5	28,140	35.5
Bluegrass, Kentucky	29,056	21.8	28,896	23.6	30,545	24.9	27,662	21.7	30,531	21.5	27,303	18.6
Sorghum/Sudan	23,206	56.7	17,023	41.1	25,137	56.1	32,346	57.6	28,491	59.0	22,066	51.2
Bermudagrass, HSK	5,321	3.5	6,283	3.4	7,217	4.2	9,743	3.0	11,233	3.6	16,889	5.1
Bermudagrass, other	4,635	3.7	4,330	3.0	6,276	4.4	7,481	5.9	7,100	5.4	6,883	5.4
Fescue, Creeping Red	1,000	1.3	6,820	8.4	9,494	11.2	10,160	12.5	9,478	10.8	6,639	8.1
Bentgrass	4,625	1.3	5,753	1.5	6,019	1.7	7,904	2.2	8,557	2.4	6,010	1.6
Sudangrass	5,410	15.0	6,761	17.8	6,419	18.1	12,168	35.4	5,199	14.8	5,499	12.6
Fescue, other	3,571	4.3	5,942	7.7	4,849	5.7	4,096	4.2	2,969	3.0	3,486	3.8
Orchardgrass	2,118	2.5	2,067	2.6	3,165	4.0	4,087	4.9	2,292	2.2	3,343	3.5
Wheatgrass	248	0.1	348	0.2	277	0.6	945	0.5	894	0.6	373	0.2
Fescue, Meadow	9	0.0	8	0.0	11	0.0	8	0.0	75	0.1	226	0.3
Other Forage Seeds	80,677	71.2	102,029	77.1	124,478	81.6	136,058	69.8	112,670	62.4	143,041	71.2
<b>Grass Seeds: Total</b>	<b>172,061</b>	<b>289.4</b>	<b>196,033</b>	<b>307.0</b>	<b>251,483</b>	<b>372.4</b>	<b>272,984</b>	<b>388.3</b>	<b>265,042</b>	<b>357.8</b>	<b>243,828</b>	<b>330.5</b>
Alfalfa, Cert.	44,742	21.7	65,684	30.0	87,771	42.1	93,645	26.4	73,680	22.3	103,178	31.0
Alfalfa, Uncert.	11,630	8.3	10,727	7.2	16,163	10.9	20,374	13.6	20,861	12.7	18,874	11.7
Forage Seeds	15,594	33.6	15,660	31.4	10,455	21.3	11,544	21.7	11,328	22.9	10,973	21.3
Clover, other Red	3,526	3.1	2,645	2.7	3,767	3.0	4,743	4.2	1,844	1.4	3,916	3.0
Clover, White/Ladino	2,829	1.8	4,195	2.8	3,199	1.8	2,346	1.2	1,979	1.0	2,792	1.3
Clover, Crimson	851	1.3	1,189	1.7	1,243	1.3	1,740	1.8	1,986	1.5	1,849	1.8
Clover, Dbl Cut Red	540	0.4	770	0.7	143	0.1	202	0.2	83	0.1	762	0.7
Clover, other	904	0.9	1,138	0.8	1,606	1.0	1,268	0.8	705	0.5	585	0.4
Birdsfoot Trefoils	61	0.0	22	0.0	131	0.1	195	0.1	205	0.1	114	0.0
<b>Legume Seeds: Total</b>	<b>80,677</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>102,030</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>124,478</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>136,057</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>112,671</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>143,043</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>252,738</b>	<b>360.6</b>	<b>298,062</b>	<b>384.1</b>	<b>375,961</b>	<b>454.1</b>	<b>409,042</b>	<b>458.2</b>	<b>377,712</b>	<b>420.2</b>	<b>386,869</b>	<b>401.7</b>

QTY = Millions of lbs., Value = '000 of \$

## USA Exports by Quantity and Species: Turf Grass Seed

Exports of grass and legume seed out of the USA continues to be dominated by turf grass species, especially annual ryegrass and perennial ryegrass seed. Although not differentiated, both turf type and forage type tall fescue seed is presented here under “turf” seeds.

Turf grass seed production dominates world production, with the USA being the leader. American turf grass seed production is dominated by turf types, with most grown in Oregon. 2014-15 saw the USA export over 112 million lbs. of **annual ryegrass** seed, only 3 million lbs. less than the previous year. View chart below to see exports by country.

USA Exports of Annual Ryegrass by Country, by crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>24,540</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>28,412</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>35,121</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>45,509</b>	<b>117.1</b>	<b>45,984</b>	<b>115.4</b>	<b>45,152</b>	<b>112.3</b>
China	5,583	18.9	4,553	13.8	4,112	11.9	6,894	19.5	12,272	31.2	11,585	30.5
Korea, South	1,992	6.2	2,898	8.2	4,511	13.4	7,666	21.3	6,239	18.3	6,572	19.8
Australia(*)	3,164	9.2	3,965	9.5	2,105	4.5	2,349	4.9	3,005	6.6	5,388	12.9
Japan	4,339	12.6	4,489	17.0	6,235	21.8	6,096	22.6	4,438	14.6	3,320	7.1
Canada	1,387	3.7	1,513	4.2	1,748	4.4	2,301	5.6	2,661	6.3	2,497	7.0
Spain	739	2.1	1,599	3.8	2,821	6.2	2,821	5.8	2,527	5.4	3,010	6.4
Italy(*)	2,480	6.0	4,433	10.6	6,239	14.4	7,741	16.0	4,747	9.6	2,383	4.9
Mexico	876	2.8	435	1.2	953	2.6	890	2.3	960	2.5	1,045	2.9
Portugal	50	0.1	28	0.1	243	0.5	614	1.1	808	1.8	1,474	2.8
Chile	123	0.4	92	0.2	169	0.4	514	1.1	609	1.4	1,002	2.6
Argentina	1,594	4.8	716	1.9	557	1.5	1,308	2.8	1,423	3.1	1,038	2.5
<b>Rest of World (36 countries)</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>3,691</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>5,428</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>6,315</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>6,295</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>5,838</b>	<b>12.9</b>

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

**Perennial ryegrass** exports came in at 32.3 million lbs. The export of annual ryegrass seed has exploded since the mid-2000, when less than 50 million lbs. was exported. View chart below to see exports by country.

USA Exports of Perennial Ryegrass by Country, by crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>15,282</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>25,377</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>34,584</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>32,869</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>32,866</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>28,662</b>	<b>32.4</b>
Canada	7,215	12.7	8,486	15.4	8,833	12.2	5,655	6.8	7,327	7.3	5,555	5.5
China	1,724	3.0	3,275	5.4	4,489	6.4	10,122	12.8	12,292	13.8	11,668	13.9
Italy	786	1.3	1,536	2.3	3,106	4.3	727	1.6	512	1.0	743	1.3
France(*)	899	1.4	1,135	1.6	1,475	1.9	292	0.4	927	1.4	911	1.2
Netherlands	269	0.3	3,793	5.6	3,769	4.7	1,521	2.1	1,584	2.0	1,252	1.2
Spain	597	0.9	738	1.1	1,953	2.5	1,242	1.5	1,164	1.4	1,077	1.2
Colombia	116	0.2	41	0.1	63	0.1	2,593	3.2	488	0.6	1,057	1.1
Russia	20	0.0	43	0.1	161	0.2	701	0.8	775	0.8	785	0.8
New Zealand	24	0.0	4	0.0	537	0.7	1,332	1.5	940	1.0	822	0.8
Ecuador	134	0.2	387	0.5	270	0.4	1,121	1.3	335	0.4	688	0.7
Poland	0	-	0	-	323	0.3	2,086	2.6	2,133	2.3	481	0.7
Japan	731	1.0	865	1.0	1,177	1.5	805	1.1	509	0.5	587	0.6
Romania	24	0.0	149	0.2	133	0.2	36	0.0	116	0.2	351	0.5
Australia	206	0.3	378	0.5	452	0.6	928	1.1	403	0.5	410	0.5
<b>Rest of World (39 countries)</b>	<b>2,537.0</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>4,547.0</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>7,843.0</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>3,708.0</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>3,361.0</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>2,275.0</b>	<b>29.9</b>

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

**Tall fescue**, both turf and forage types, saw exports at 35.5 million lbs., a drop of over 10 million lbs (a 22% drop!). View chart below to see exports by country.

USA Exports of Tall Fescue by Country, by crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	17,657	40.5	20,309	38.7	30,689	47.9	28,993	37.7	35,530	45.5	28,140	35.5
China	7,900	16.3	8,815	18.2	11,675	18.4	9,705	11.9	17,525	21.5	12,578	15.2
Germany(*)	380	0.7	683	1.5	2,325	3.8	2,491	4.4	2,497	4.3	2,118	3.7
Spain	496	1.0	1,062	2.1	1,144	1.7	3,112	3.7	1,677	2.1	1,808	2.3
Korea, South	1,401	2.6	1,514	2.7	1,499	2.5	1,514	1.9	1,984	2.8	1,739	2.3
<b>Rest of World (43 countries)</b>	7,480	20.1	8,235	14.1	14,046	21.5	12,171	15.7	11,847	14.8	9,897	12.0

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

“Other” grass seed category, saw exports of 39.9 million lbs. This category accounts for grass seed mixtures of blended seed or non-categorized species (category could include both turf and forage grass seed mixtures). While annual ryegrass (down 3 million lbs.), perennial ryegrass (down 4.5 million lbs.), tall fescue (down 10 million lbs.), Kentucky bluegrass (down 3 million lbs.), and sorghum/sudan (down 9 million lbs.) exports all fell from 2013-14, grass seed mixtures saw its’ exports increase by 3.3 million lbs.

**Kentucky bluegrass** seed, the heart of the worldwide lawn seed industry, saw exports of 18.6 million lbs. This is the lowest amount of seed exported in at least the past 6 years.

USA Grass Seed Exports by Crop Year (July to June)				
Product	2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>Grand Total</b>	377,712	420.2	386,869	401.7
Ryegrass, annual	45,984	115.4	45,152	112.3
Grass Seed, other	43,845	36.6	43,157	40.0
Ryegrass, Perennial	32,866	36.9	28,662	32.4
Fescue, Tall	35,530	45.5	28,140	35.5
Bluegrass, Kentucky	30,531	21.5	27,303	18.6
Sorghum/Sudan	28,491	59.0	22,066	51.2
Bermudagrass, HSK	11,233	3.6	16,889	5.1
Bermudagrass, other	7,100	5.4	6,883	5.4
Fescue, Creeping Red	9,478	10.8	6,639	8.1
Bentgrass	8,557	2.4	6,010	1.6
Sudangrass	5,199	14.8	5,499	12.6
Fescue, other	2,969	3.0	3,486	3.8
Orchardgrass	2,292	2.2	3,343	3.5
Wheatgrass	894	0.6	373	0.2
Fescue, Meadow	75	0.1	226	0.3
Other Forage Seeds	112,670	62.4	143,041	71.2
<b>Grass Seeds: Total</b>	265,042	357.8	243,828	330.5

QTY = Millions of lbs., Value = '000 of \$



## USA Exports by Quantity and Species: Legume Seed

American legume seed exports only accounts for 13.9% of total USA grass and legume seed trade. Of the 39.5 million lbs. of seed exported in 2014, legume seed trade is dominated by alfalfa seed. Certified **alfalfa** seed saw 22.3 million lbs. traded, while common alfalfa seed exports were at 12.65 million lbs. Total alfalfa seed exports accounted for over 88% of all legume seed exports. However, the value of 2014 alfalfa seed exports is a different story. Alfalfa seed accounts for over \$94.5 million in exports, well above the \$45 million in annual ryegrass seed exports. In fact, despite accounting for only 9.7% of total American grass and legume seed exports in 2014/15, she accounted for over 27% of total value from all grass and legume seed exports. Alfalfa remains the most sought after legume seed in the world, and deserves the distinction of being “the queen of the legumes”. **Red clover (other)**, **white/ladino clover**, and **crimson clover** also had exports of over 1 million lbs. The category “forage seeds” showed over 21 million lbs. of seed exported. These “Mixtures” were exported as such and composition of these mixtures is not recorded. View chart below to see exports of both certified and un-certified alfalfa seed by country.

USA Legume Seed Exports by Crop Year (July to June)				
Product	2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>377,712</b>	<b>420.2</b>	<b>386,869</b>	<b>401.7</b>
Alfalfa, Cert.	73,680	22.3	103,178	31.0
Alfalfa, Uncert.	20,861	12.7	18,874	11.7
Forage Seeds	11,328	22.9	10,973	21.3
Clover, other Red	1,844	1.4	3,916	3.0
Clover, White/Ladino	1,979	1.0	2,792	1.3
Clover, Crimson	1,986	1.5	1,849	1.8
Clover, Dbl Cut Red	83	0.1	762	0.7
Clover, other	705	0.5	585	0.4
Birdsfoot Trefoils	205	0.1	114	0.0
<b>Legume Seeds: Total</b>	<b>112,671</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>143,043</b>	<b>71</b>

QTY = Millions of lbs., Value = '000 of \$

USA Exports of Alfalfa Seed (certified) by Country, by crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>44,742</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>65,684</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>87,771</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>93,645</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>73,680</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>103,178</b>	<b>30.99</b>
Saudi Arabia	19,415	9.0	31,203	13.0	50,807	22.9	55,518	13.3	30,049	7.2	59,104	15.61
Mexico	10,357	5.6	12,548	7.3	15,319	8.3	15,680	5.8	16,775	6.4	17,754	7.03
Canada	5,402	2.2	6,805	3.0	6,027	2.6	5,394	2.0	4,580	1.6	7,069	2.34
Argentina	3,013	1.4	7,059	2.9	7,361	3.7	6,398	1.8	5,932	1.6	5,907	1.53
Libya	50	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	379	0.1	1,542	0.6	1,651	0.67
Romania	882	0.3	591	0.1	362	0.3	1,275	0.3	1,643	0.4	1,605	0.46
Spain	1,328	0.5	1,291	0.6	288	0.2	444	0.2	684	0.3	1,094	0.44
<b>Rest of World (26 countries)</b>	<b>4,295</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>6,187</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>7,607</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>8,557</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>12,475</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>8,994</b>	<b>2.91</b>

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

USA Exports of Alfalfa Seed (un-certified) by Country, by crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>11,630</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>10,727</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>16,163</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>20,374</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>20,861</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>18,874</b>	<b>11.74</b>
Mexico	4,901	3.5	2,984	2.1	3,408	2.7	5,482	4.1	4,460	3.3	5,475	3.95
Saudi Arabia	146	0.2	1,082	0.4	648	0.4	537	0.2	835	0.3	4,251	2.41
China	118	0.1	534	0.3	1,466	1.0	3,448	1.7	1,647	0.9	1,457	0.97
Peru	893	0.6	919	0.6	928	0.7	1,484	1.2	2,088	1.3	1,024	0.82
Libya	554	0.4	812	0.5	3,228	1.7	3,209	1.8	6,492	3.4	1,447	0.75
Kuwait	291	0.2	485	0.3	888	0.6	1,194	1.0	764	0.6	917	0.58
Chile	660	0.5	506	0.3	1,353	0.8	1,375	0.9	846	0.5	959	0.50
<b>Rest of World (16 countries)</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>3,405</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>3,645</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>3,729</b>	<b>2.29</b>	<b>3,344</b>	<b>1.76</b>

## USA Exports by Quantity and Species – Forage Grass Seed

With USA trade data **NOT** breaking tall fescue out as to turf grass or forage grass, and listing the broad category “**Grass, other**”, it is assumed the majority of grass seed trade out of the USA is of the turf grass species. The trade category “**Forage Seeds**” includes legume/grass seed mixtures. Of the categorized grass seed species, the only cool season forage grass identified by USA trade data is **orchardgrass**, which saw its exports drop by over half to 2.2 mil. Lbs. in 2014/15. Most of the USA’s forage grass seed trade centers around the warm season forage types, mainly **sudangrass** and **bermudagrass**.



## USA Grass and Legume Seed Trade by Country

The USA continues to dominate world trade in grass and legume seed. With the EU trading within her borders, the USA dominates in countries outside the EU. China continues to be the USA's number one trading partner in grass and legume seed, followed by Canada. Eight other countries had imports of over 10 million lbs, of American seed.

**China** accounts for over 22% of USA exports, with **Canada** following at 14.9%. However, Canadian-USA trade may involve cross border movement back and forth and seed destined for contract production from the USA into Canada. **Mexican** imports of 51 million lbs. in 2014/15 is a decrease of 17 million lbs. from the previous year, and is the lowest in at least the past 6 years.

USA Grass and Legumes Exports by Country:												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>172,061</b>	<b>379.4</b>	<b>196,033</b>	<b>432.2</b>	<b>251,483</b>	<b>554.5</b>	<b>272,984</b>	<b>601.9</b>	<b>265,042</b>	<b>584.4</b>	<b>243,828</b>	<b>537.6</b>
<b>China</b>	42,052	83.6	49,188	95.0	56,712	108.1	57,385	101.5	82,298	153.3	79,767	138.2
<b>Canada</b>	34,737	56.6	42,152	65.2	44,942	71.6	53,690	87.4	53,804	92.5	53,736	87.4
<b>Mexico</b>	43,538	75.3	36,616	51.8	48,475	74.8	61,150	77.9	49,704	68.9	40,529	51.0
<b>Korea, South</b>	13,390	29.9	15,571	32.5	17,194	36.4	17,543	37.6	16,903	34.5	18,503	37.9
<b>Japan</b>	13,611	29.6	15,275	34.7	16,786	34.3	17,625	35.8	14,444	29.2	14,640	28.7
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	21,401	12.6	35,489	20.4	54,265	30.0	63,134	30.7	32,721	12.3	66,789	23.9
<b>Italy</b>	9,777	19.3	13,234	26.5	20,662	40.6	19,103	36.3	16,472	30.9	11,160	20.4
<b>Australia</b>	6,295	12.2	7,156	13.8	5,472	9.8	6,224	11.6	7,060	12.9	9,589	18.6
<b>Netherlands</b>	12,211	24.0	15,446	29.3	24,483	49.6	17,809	36.0	12,629	23.6	9,317	18.6
<b>Spain</b>	7,016	11.2	7,446	13.0	10,208	20.7	11,038	22.7	9,682	18.4	8,772	17.1
<b>Turkey</b>	1,508	2.9	3,770	7.2	3,947	7.2	5,279	10.3	5,368	10.1	5,168	10.5
<b>Total other countries (85)</b>	44,473	68.1	54,611	81.3	69,101	102.4	74,468	108.6	73,145	91.1	64,161	86.4
<b>World Total</b>	<b>172,061</b>	<b>379.4</b>	<b>196,033</b>	<b>432.2</b>	<b>251,483</b>	<b>554.5</b>	<b>272,984</b>	<b>601.9</b>	<b>265,042</b>	<b>584.4</b>	<b>243,828</b>	<b>537.6</b>

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

## China

Total USA grass and legume seed exports to **China** decreased by over 15 million lbs. in 2014/15, and was led by the turf grasses. 2014/15 saw over 27 million lbs. of tall fescue, 25 million lbs. of annual ryegrass, (primarily turf species), 22 million lbs. of Kentucky bluegrass, and 12 million lbs. of perennial ryegrass imported into China from the USA. However, the imports of all these turf grass species is down from year ago levels. Grass seed mixtures/non-categorized species (coded as "Grass seed, other") saw the most seed imported, but composition of these mixtures cannot be broken out. China accounted for over 25.7% of all American grass and legume seed exports. Alfalfa imports fell by over 750,000 lbs. in 2014, as did orchardgrass (down to only 380,000 lbs. from 640,000 lbs. in 2013). Total value of USA grass and legume seed exports to China was over \$82 million.

USA Grass and Legumes Exports to China by Crop/crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>172,061</b>	<b>379.4</b>	<b>196,033</b>	<b>432.2</b>	<b>251,483</b>	<b>554.5</b>	<b>272,984</b>	<b>601.9</b>	<b>265,042</b>	<b>584.4</b>	<b>243,828</b>	<b>537.6</b>
<b>China Total</b>	<b>42,052</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>49,188</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>56,712</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>57,385</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>82,298</b>	<b>153.3</b>	<b>79,767</b>	<b>138.2</b>
Grass Seed, other	12,791	28.2	12,572	27.7	15,608	34.4	13,604	30.0	16,578	36.6	14,486	31.9
Fescue, Tall	7,900	17.4	8,815	19.4	11,675	25.7	9,705	21.4	17,525	38.6	12,578	27.7
Ryegrass, annual	5,583	12.3	4,553	10.0	4,112	9.1	6,894	15.2	12,272	27.1	11,585	25.5
Bluegrass, Kentucky	7,851	17.3	11,483	25.3	10,138	22.4	7,422	16.4	11,742	25.9	10,374	22.9
Ryegrass, Perennial	1,724	3.8	3,275	7.2	4,489	9.9	5,655	12.5	7,327	16.2	5,555	12.2
Sorghum/Sudan	17	0.0	73	0.2	0	0.0	132	0.3	951	2.1	4,264	8.2
Bermudagrass. HSK	2,170	1.5	3,472	1.7	5,379	3.0	6,693	1.8	9,297	2.7	15,141	4.5
Sudangrass	33	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	0.0	141	0.4	577	1.5
Bermudagrass, other	1,791	1.2	1,183	0.8	1,325	0.9	1,324	1.1	1,470	1.2	1,786	1.5
Alfalfa, uncert	118	0.1	534	0.3	1,466	1.0	3,448	1.7	1,647	0.9	1,457	1.0
Forage Seed	214	0.4	99	0.2	180	0.4	223	0.4	235	0.5	227	0.5
White Clover/Ladino	906.0	0.7	1,840.0	1.4	1,148.0	0.7	320.0	0.2	229.0	0.2	1,104.0	0.4
Fescue, other	43	0.1	126	0.1	83	0.1	114	0.2	134	0.2	123	0.1
Clover, Crimson	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	23	0.0	63	0.1
Bentgrass	657	0.1	777	0.1	561	0.1	1,441	0.3	2,096	0.5	294	0.1
Clover, other Red	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	66	0.0	61	0.0
Clover, other	193.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	72.0	0.0
Fescue, Creeping Red	61	0.1	112	0.2	61	0.1	5	0.0	0	0.0	20	0.0
Alfalfa, cert	0	0.0	274	0.2	487	0.3	381	0.1	565	0.2	0	0.0

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

## Canada

Canadian imports of grass/legume seed centres around the turf grasses, with Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescue, perennial and annual ryegrass and tall fescue accounting for over 68 million of Canada's total of 87.4 million lbs. imported from the USA. As well, Canadian imports of other fescue and grass seed mixtures accounted for close to another 3 million lbs. of seed. Some of this seed is destined for contract production in western Canada while other seed, especially creeping red fescue, may be of cross-border origin, (IE: produced in Canada, packaged in the USA, then brought back into Canada). With Canada being self-sufficient in forage seed production (grasses/legumes), some of these species imported from the USA could also fall into this situation. (Contract production, cross-border transactions)

USA Grass and Legumes Exports to Canada by Crop/crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>172,061</b>	<b>379.4</b>	<b>196,033</b>	<b>432.2</b>	<b>251,483</b>	<b>554.5</b>	<b>272,984</b>	<b>601.9</b>	<b>265,042</b>	<b>584.4</b>	<b>243,828</b>	<b>537.6</b>
<b>Canada Total</b>	<b>34,737</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>42,152</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>44,942</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>53,690</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>53,804</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>53,736</b>	<b>87.4</b>
Bluegrass, Kentucky	10,484	23.1	9,662	21.3	10,784	23.8	13,188	29.1	13,353	29.4	11,900	26.2
Ryegrass, Perennial	7,215	15.9	8,486	18.7	8,833	19.5	10,122	22.3	12,292	27.1	11,668	25.7
Alfalfa, cert	5,402	2.2	6,805	3.0	6,027	2.6	5,394	2.0	4,580	1.6	7,069	2.3
Fescue, Creeping Red	396	0.5	6,148	7.5	7,775	9.1	9,021	11.4	8,572	9.9	5,866	7.4
Forage Seed	2,490	4.8	2,320	4.1	3,285	6.5	3,860	7.2	4,764	10.1	5,724	10.4
Ryegrass, annual	1,387	3.1	1,513	3.3	1,748	3.9	2,301	5.1	2,661	5.9	2,497	5.5
Clover, other Red	2,244	2.2	2,001	2.1	2,275	1.8	3,177	2.8	1,282	1.0	2,435	1.9
Fescue, other	2,270	2.7	2,415	3.0	1,563	1.7	2,736	2.7	1,869	1.9	1,992	2.3
Fescue, Tall	493	1.1	527	1.2	869	1.9	1,514	3.3	1,984	4.4	1,739	3.8
Bentgrass	1,460	0.3	1,352	0.3	1,136	0.3	1,414	0.3	1,420	0.4	1,419	0.4
White Clover/Ladino	600	0.5	668	0.4	227	0.1	319	0.2	296	0.1	649	0.4
Clover, other	250	0.2	244	0.2	156	0.1	228	0.1	409	0.2	468	0.3
Grass Seed, other	-	0.0	-	0.0	172	0.4	307	0.7	173	0.4	262	0.6
Birdsfoot Trefoils	46	0.0	11	0.0	92	0.1	109	0.1	149	0.1	48	0.0

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

## Mexico

A large piece of Mexican grass/legume seed imports from the USA centers around sorghum/sudan grass seed, with this warm season crop occupying 55% of her import total. The next 3 most imported species are also imported to help support the Mexican cattle industry, with those species being alfalfa seed (certified and common), and forage seed mixtures. In total, Mexico purchased over \$40.5 million worth of American seed.

USA Grass and Legumes Exports to Mexico by Crop/crop year												
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
<b>World Total</b>	<b>172,061</b>	<b>379.4</b>	<b>196,033</b>	<b>432.2</b>	<b>251,483</b>	<b>554.5</b>	<b>272,984</b>	<b>601.9</b>	<b>265,042</b>	<b>584.4</b>	<b>243,828</b>	<b>537.6</b>
<b>Mexico Total</b>	<b>43,538</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>36,616</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>48,475</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>61,150</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>49,704</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>40,529</b>	<b>51.0</b>
Sorghum/Sudan	19,601	48.2	13,071	28.3	21,628	49.3	28,542	50.1	20,969	46.0	10,789	28.0
Alfalfa, cert	10,357	5.6	12,548	7.3	15,319	8.3	15,680	5.8	16,775	6.4	17,754	7.0
Forage Seed	5,457	12.1	5,477	8.6	2,571	5.2	4,821	8.3	4,045	7.7	2,816	5.6
Alfalfa, uncert	4,901	3.5	2,984	2.1	3,408	2.7	5,482	4.1	4,460	3.3	5,475	3.9
Ryegrass, annual	876	1.9	435	1.0	953	2.1	890	2.0	960	2.1	1,045	2.3
Ryegrass, Perennial	216	0.5	329	0.7	1,066	2.4	727	1.6	512	1.1	743	1.6
Sudangrass	610	1.9	820	2.4	523	1.4	285	0.8	303	0.7	331	0.9
Bermudagrass, other	499	0.4	254	0.2	520	0.4	1,380	1.2	469	0.4	742	0.6
Fescue, Tall	33	0.1	100	0.2	164	0.4	234	0.5	63	0.1	182	0.4
Grass Seed, other	416	0.9	350	0.8	875	1.9	1,064	2.3	191	0.4	103	0.2
Bermudagrass, HSK	62	0.0	40	0.0	69	0.0	99	0.1	170	0.1	146	0.1
Bentgrass	245	0.1	95	0.0	610	0.2	1,294	0.5	648	0.3	275	0.1
Fescue, other	147	0.2	11	0.0	35	0.0	44	0.1	117	0.1	76	0.1
Bluegrass, Kentucky	-	0.0	27	0.1	25	0.1	-	0.0	4	0.0	22	0.0
Clover, other	87	0.1	-	0.0	698	0.4	590	0.4	18	0.0	30	0.0

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June



## South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan

After Mexico, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Japan round out the top 6 American grass/legume seed trade partners. As seen in the chart below, only one or two species makes up the majority of the grass/legume seed imported by that country. With South Korea, those crops are annual ryegrass and grass seed mixtures. Japanese imports are dominated by “grass seed, other” (turf grass mixes) and annual ryegrass. Saudi Arabia, with a huge need for alfalfa hay, saw over 75% of its’ imports dedicated to alfalfa seed. Saudi imports from the USA almost doubled last year, with the value of seed exports exceeding \$66 million.

USA Grass and Legumes Exports to South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan by Crop/crop year													
		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
	World Total	172,061	379.4	196,033	432.2	251,483	554.5	272,984	601.9	265,042	584.4	243,828	537.6
South Korea	South Korea Total	13,390	29.9	15,571	32.5	17,194	36.4	17,543	37.6	16,903	34.5	18,503	37.9
South Korea	Ryegrass, annual	1,992	4.4	2,898	6.4	4,511	9.9	7,666	16.9	6,239	13.8	6,572	14.5
South Korea	Grass Seed, other	3,740	8.2	3,814	8.4	5,270	11.6	5,113	11.3	5,127	11.3	5,868	12.9
South Korea	Fescue, Tall	1,401	3.1	1,514	3.3	1,499	3.3	2,491	5.5	2,497	5.5	2,118	4.7
South Korea	Sorghum/Sudan	61	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	87	0.2	367	0.8	1,675	3.0
Japan	Japan Total	13,611	29.6	15,275	34.7	16,786	34.3	17,625	35.8	14,444	29.2	14,640	28.7
Japan	Grass Seed, other	3,745	8.3	4,931	10.9	5,605	12.4	5,426	12.0	3,887	8.6	5,814	12.8
Japan	Ryegrass, annual	4,339	9.6	4,489	9.9	6,235	13.7	6,096	13.4	4,438	9.8	3,320	7.3
Japan	Ryegrass, Perennial	731	1.6	865	1.9	1,177	2.6	1,521	3.4	1,584	3.5	1,252	2.8
Japan	Sorghum/Sudan	251	0.7	929	5.4	137	0.3	163	0.4	722	1.6	848	1.7
Japan	Bluegrass, Kentucky	213	0.5	423	0.9	349	0.8	178	0.4	215	0.5	492	1.1
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia Total	21,401	12.6	35,489	20.4	54,265	30.0	63,134	30.7	32,721	12.3	66,789	23.9
Saudi Arabia	Alfalfa, cert	19,415	9.0	31,203	13.0	50,807	22.9	55,518	13.3	30,049	7.2	59,104	15.6
Saudi Arabia	Sudangrass	506	1.3	1,544	3.4	1,508	4.3	5,533	15.8	1,226	3.5	2,061	4.0
Saudi Arabia	Alfalfa, uncert	146	0.2	1,082	0.4	648	0.4	537	0.2	835	0.3	4,251	2.4
Saudi Arabia	Sorghum/Sudan	355	0.9	1,178	2.8	1,028	1.9	-	0.0	6	0.0	672	1.5

Value = '000 of \$, Qty = millions of lbs, crop year = July to June

## Summary

The USA continues to be the world leader in production of grass and legume seed, and as such, is watched closely by the world when it comes to marketing and trade in this agricultural sector. American trade in the grass/legume seed sector sets the tone for pricing and marketing throughout the world. With the USA economy being the leader in the world, domestic usage of grass/legume seed is abundant. But what it exports throughout the world remains a major factor in production and pricing worldwide.

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