

## Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Data: 2016 Canadian Census of Agriculture – Forage Seed

### Overview:

Every 5 years the Canadian government conducts a nation-wide “Census of Agriculture”, which provides a statistical portrait of Canada's agriculture industry and its farm operators and families. The latest census was conducted in 2016, with survey results released this past year. Unlike Statistics crop reporting series, which surveys Canada's major crops annually (acres, production, usage etc.), this census is the one major way of finding trends in grass and legume seed production in Canada, albeit providing acreage data only. Viewing the “Forage Seed” data from the census, 2016 saw 1,784 Canadian farmers grow grass/legume seed on their farms, occupying over 400,000 acres. This was a rise of over 80,000 acres from the 2011 census. Still a valuable crop on many Canadian farms, grass and legume seed acres ranked 15<sup>th</sup> out of the 27 crops surveyed, occupying 0.4% of Canada's total farming area.

### Canadian Production – 2016

Once again, Canada's grass and legume seed production was led by Alberta, with over 164,000 acres of in production. Alberta is led primarily by alfalfa seed production in Southern Alberta and grass seed production (primarily large acres of creeping red fescue and timothy) in Northern Alberta's Peace River Region (91,000 acres). Alberta's acres rose by over 30,000 from 2011. Both Manitoba and Saskatchewan also showed increases in grass/legume seed acres. Saskatchewan acres also grew by over 30,000, pushing it over the 100,000 acre mark, while Manitoba saw it's acres increase by 25,000, settling in at 93,000 in 2016.

2016 Canada Census of Agriculture Grass and Legume Seed Acres, By Province (2016 vs 2011)				
	2011		2016	
	Number of farms reporting	Acres	Number of farms reporting	Acres
Canada	1,833	326,526	1,784	408,023
Alberta	609	131,933	640	164,070
Sask	356	73,361	402	104,279
Manitoba	368	67,973	364	93,156
B.C.	178	42,110	151	38,221
Ontario	214	7,536	158	5,325
Quebec	85	2,880	69	2,972
Nfld & Lab	8	54	-	-
PEI	5	466	-	-
Nova Scotia	3	105	-	-
N B	7	108	-	-
Canada*	1,833	325,793	2,517	408,023

Note: Due to survey methodology and FOIP, survey numbers may not add up (eg: farms growing more than one crop only counted once)

B.C., show the 4<sup>th</sup> most acres in Canada with 38,000 (34,000 acres located in the B.C. Peace region). Only Ontario and Quebec grew grass/legume seed in 2016, with acres from both provinces totaling just 8,300.

**2016 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE** 6

**COMPLETE ONLINE AT:**  
[www.census.gc.ca](http://www.census.gc.ca)  
  
**SECURE ACCESS CODE**

Ce questionnaire est disponible en français 1-855-859-6273

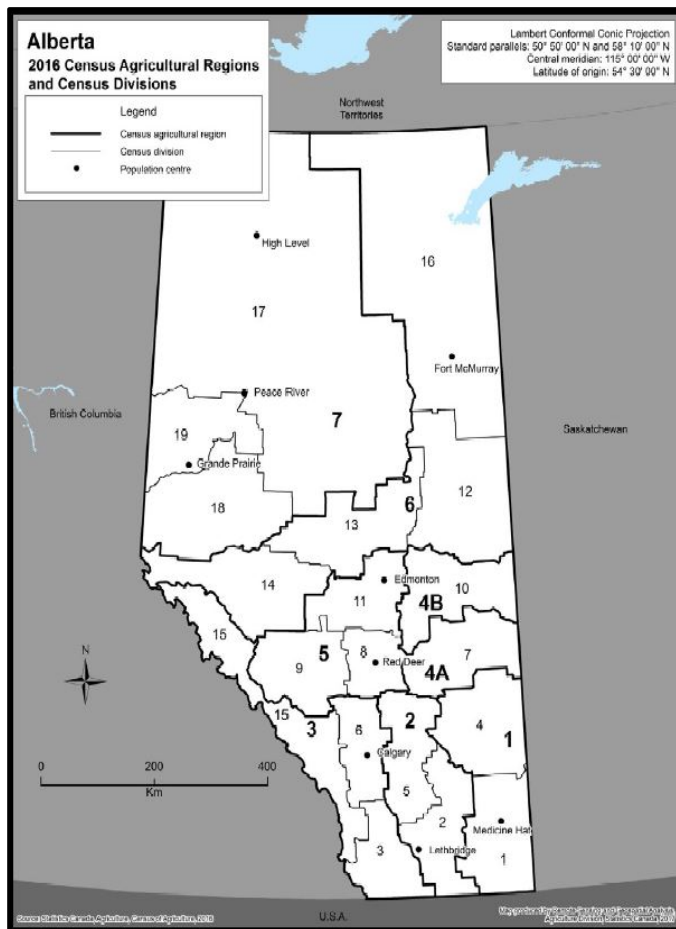
# Grass and Legume Seed Production by Province (Prairies only, Tables and 2011 Census Maps, CAR = Census Agricultural Division)

## Alberta

2016 Census of Agriculture: Forage Seed Acres - Alberta				
	2011		2016	
	Number of farms reporting	Acres	Number of farms reporting	Acres
<b>Canada</b>	1,833	326,526	1,784	408,023
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>131,933</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>164,070</b>
CAR 1	6	1,522	19	2,693
CAR 2	156	28,639	186	50,836
CAR 3	15	3,102	15	4,374
CAR 4A	6	538	14	2,008
CAR 5	39	4,363	47	5,305
CAR 6	52	6,234	44	5,947
CAR 7	313	85,097	299	91,277

## British Columbia

2016 Census of Agriculture: Forage Seed Acres - BC				
	2011		2016	
	Number of farms	Acres	Number of farms	Acres
<b>Canada</b>	1,833	326,526	1,784	408,023
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>42,110</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>38,221</b>
Vancouver Island-Coast	15	1,456	22	780
Lower Mainland-SW	24	1,218	20	1,234
Thompson-Okanagan	13	441	12	213
Kootenay	9	2,012	5	x
Cariboo	10	612	9	562
North Coast	-	-	1	x
Nechako	3	350	3	x
Peace River	104	36,021	79	33,918

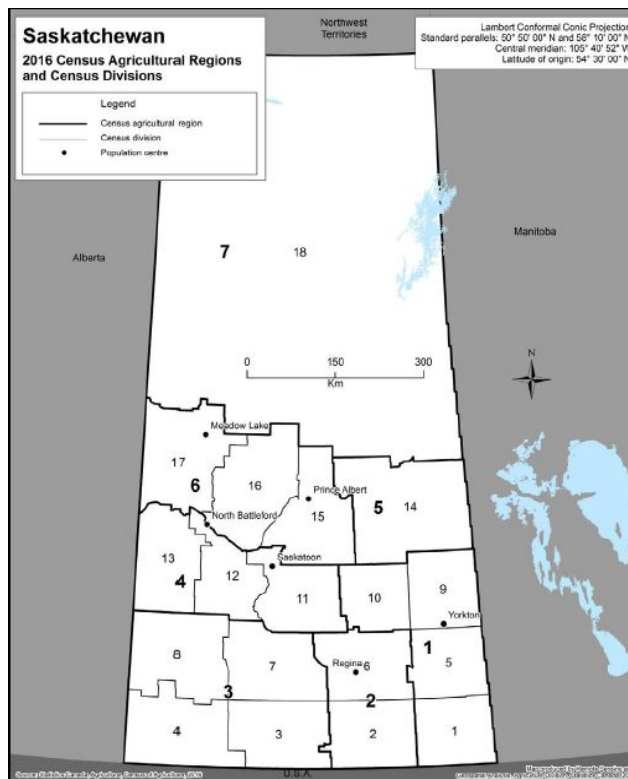
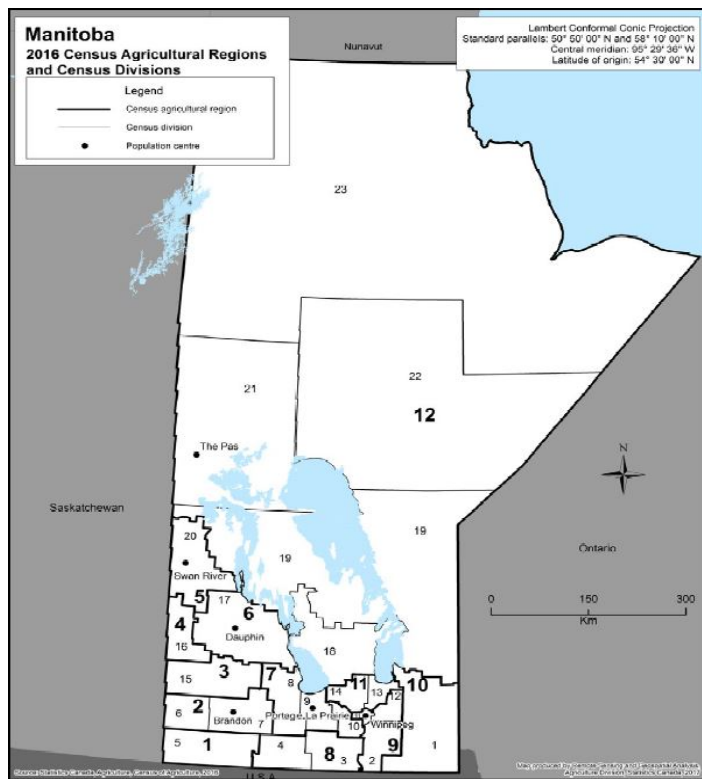


## Manitoba

2016 Census of Agriculture: Forage Seed Acres - Manitoba				
	2011		2016	
	Number of farms reporting	Acres	Number of farms reporting	Acres
Canada	1,833	326,526	1,784	408,023
<b>Manitoba</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>67,973</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>93,156</b>
CAR 1	5	507	11	1,789
CAR 2	24	2,403	19	3,162
CAR 3	15	1,950	11	2,252
CAR 4	11	1,564	9	2,383
CAR 5	7	975	6	1,340
CAR 6	46	8,871	77	19,446
CAR 7	53	10,782	27	7,254
CAR 8	41	6,512	28	5,791
CAR 9	48	8,280	39	8,386
CAR 10	18	3,507	14	3,825
CAR 11	29	4,672	27	5,051
CAR 12	71	17,950	96	32,477

## Saskatchewan

2016 Census of Agriculture: Forage Seed Acres - Saskatchewan				
	2011		2016	
	Number of farms reporting	Acres	Number of farms reporting	Acres
Canada	1,833	326,526	1,784	408,023
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>73,361</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>104,279</b>
CAR 1	-	-	69	22,975
CAR 2	-	-	21	4,296
CAR 3	-	-	28	X
CAR 4	-	-	29	6,836
CAR 5	-	-	205	58,180
CAR 6	-	-	49	8,256
CAR 7	-	-	1	X



## Peace River Region of Alberta and British Columbia

The Peace River Region of Alberta and British Columbia has long been the heart of Canada's grass and legume seed production. Since the turn of the century, local growers have been growing grass and legume seed in abundance, with legume seed crops such as red, alsike and sweet clover, along with alfalfa seed, being actively grown. It is the turf grass creeping red fescue, along with numerous grass seed species (namely timothy, smooth brome grass, meadow fescue, meadow brome grass, various wheatgrass species to name a few) that has allowed local growers to continue to grow grass and legume seed in a large scale.

With huge acres of creeping red fescue seed production in the early 2000's, the region occupied up to 53% of Canada's total forage seed production. However, with annual crop production more economical and fitting into local growers management practices, acres have leveled off to the 120,000 to 140,000 acre range. The regions' share of the national picture has fallen to around 30%, as recent alfalfa seed production acres in other parts of Canada have increased. The table below shows local census year grass/legume seed production. The Alberta Peace Region is in CAR 7, whereas B.C. production can be found in "Peace River" totals.

Points to note:

- Since 2006, the local municipalities with greatest decreases in grass/legume seed acres (>10,000) include: Clear Hills, Smokey River, Birch Hills, County of Grande Prairie, Saddle Hills County
- B.C. Peace has seen its' grass/legume seed acres fall by over 30,000 since 2006
- The Peace Region has seen over ½ its growers leave the industry, as 2006 saw 763 growers, while 2016 saw 378 growers still producing grass/legume seed crops.

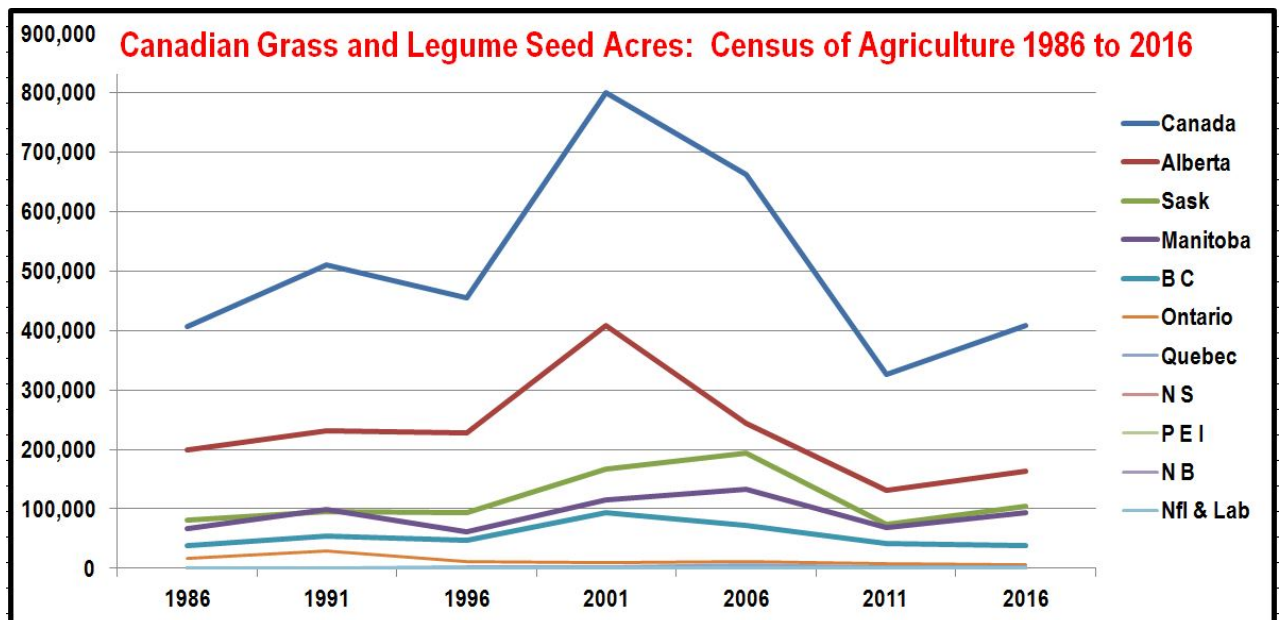
Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Production - Census of Agriculture: 2001 to 2016								
	2001		2006		2011		2016	
	farms reporting	acres	farms reporting	acres	farms reporting	acres	farms reporting	acres
Canada	3,808	799,415	3,069	661,923	1,833	326,526	1,784	408,023
Alberta	1506	409,251	1046	244,615	609	131,933	640	164,070
CAR 1	24	6,179	21	4,221	6	1,522	19	2,693
CAR 2	179	32,381	157	25,636	156	28,639	186	50,836
CAR 3	20	2,447	32	4,917	15	3,102	15	4,374
CAR 4A	11	1,913	18	1,771	6	538	14	2,008
CAR 4B	28	3,365	35	7,038	22	2,438	16	1,630
CAR 5	64	10,058	75	7,947	39	4,363	47	5,305
CAR 6	94	12,140	76	11,205	52	6,234	44	5,947
<b>Total: CAR 1 to 6</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>68483</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>62735</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>46836</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>72793</b>
CAR 7	1,086	340,768	632	181,880	313	85,097	299	91,277
<b>Division No. 17</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>104,362</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>51,484</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>19,401</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>22,812</b>
Northern Sunrise County			40	12,191	16	3,921	11	3,102
Big Lakes County			14		8	1,990	10	5,276
Lesser Slave River No.124			2		2	x	1	x
Clear Hills			55	20,971	34	8,240	23	5,315
Northern Lights County			45	10,094	14	2,794	18	4,468
Mackenzie County			29	4,908	12	x	18	x
<b>Division No. 18</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>21,571</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>16,009</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13,933</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>17,881</b>
Greenview No. 16			46	16,009	24	13,933	37	17,881
<b>Division No. 19</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>214,835</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>114,387</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>51,763</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>50,584</b>
Grande Prairie County No. 1			122	28,159	82	19,932	80	17,363
Smoky River No. 130			71	19,652	30	7,988	24	6,784
Birch Hills County			43	14,038	13	1,817	6	700
Spirit River No. 133			25	7,223	3	288	6	901
Saddle Hills County			76	30,554	52	16,646	37	15,622
Fairview No. 136			48	12,266	16	3,737	17	6,434
Peace No. 135			16	2,495	7	1,355	11	2,780

British Columbia	270	93,332	207	71,624	178	42,110	151	38,221
Total: Rest of BC	58	3,885	76	5,716	74	6,089	72	4,303
Peace River	212	89,447	131	65,908	104	36,021	79	33,918
Peace River D			29	7,928	12	1,584	9	x
Peace River E			1		5	579	2	x
Peace River B			83	51,405	73	26,548	59	27,836
Peace River C			18		14	7,310	9	4,483
Total Peace Country	1,298	430,215	763	247,788	417	121,118	378	125,195
% of Canada		53.8%		37.4%		37.1%		30.7%

CAR: Census Agriculture Region

### Census Results: 1986 to 2016

Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Acres: Census Data - Acres Reported (1986 to 2016)							
	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Canada	406,350	510,108	454,262	799,415	661,923	326,526	408,023
Alberta	200,013	230,609	226,974	409,251	244,615	131,933	164,070
Sask	81,620	95,584	93,392	166,771	194,556	73,361	104,279
Manitoba	67,195	98,587	61,694	115,926	132,322	67,973	93,156
B C	38,508	54,885	46,984	93,332	71,624	42,110	38,221
Ontario	17,488	29,587	11,910	9,088	12,323	7,536	5,325
Quebec	1,134	1,220	2,390	2,229	5,203	2,880	2,972
N S	0	29	370	398	85	105	0
P E I	392	75	340	1164	501	466	0
N B	0	0	165	1011	614	108	0
Nfl & Lab	0	0	110	245	80	54	0



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