

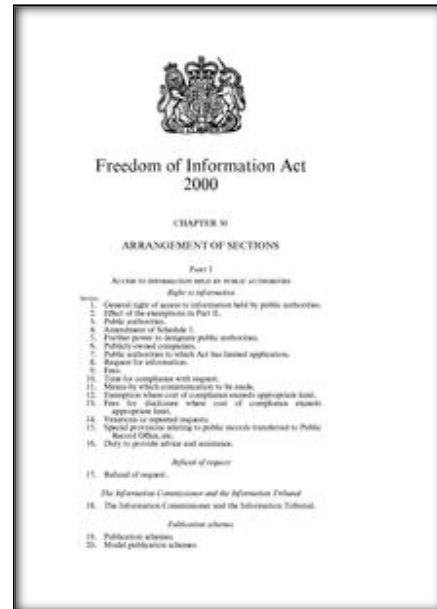
Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Data: 2017 Inspected Acres

Overview:

Although 2017 saw Canadian farmers grow more certified seed acres (all crops) across Canada, certified production of grass and legume seed fell slightly from the previous year. 2017 saw Canadian pedigreed grass and legume seed growers apply for 182,881 to be inspected, down by 10,000 acres from 2016. The drop in certified grass and legume seed inspected acres was led by the ryegrasses and timothy seed (down 6,000 and 5,000 acres respectively). No other crop gained nor lost more than 1,000 acres in 2017.

Note: Due to Canada's Freedom of Information Act (FOIP), many plant types are not broken down to species level. The main Canadian grass/legume seed species applied for inspection includes:

- **Bromegrass:** primarily meadow bromegrass, smooth bromegrass or hybrid bromegrass
- **Fescues:** primarily creeping red fescue, tall fescue, or meadow fescue
- **Clovers:** primarily red clover, alsike clover, sweet clover, or white clover
- **Ryegrasses:** primarily perennial ryegrass or annual ryegrass
- **Wheat grasses:** primarily crested wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, northern wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, or intermediate wheatgrass.



2017 Inspected Acres:

Alberta, with over 51,000 acres of pedigreed alfalfa seed production (primarily in the Brooks AB region) led all provinces in inspections. Alberta's total of over 83,000 acres also over 10,000 acres of both fescue (mostly creeping red fescue) and timothy seed. The bromegrasses (smooth, meadow, and hybrid), wheat grasses (crested, northern, etc.), and clovers (mainly red and alsike) all saw inspected acres in 2017 over 3,500. Pedigreed ryegrass fields were over 1,500, with farmers still experimenting with in crop under our northern growing conditions.

Manitoba, with Canada's 2nd largest pedigreed grass/legume seed growing area, was led by timothy (20,000+ acres), ryegrass (mostly perennial, 16,000+ acres) and alfalfa (13,000+ acres). Pedigreed fescue (7,000 acres), and birds' foot trefoil (2,700 acres) rounded out their main crops.

Saskatchewan, with 34,500 inspected acres, ranked 3rd. Saskatchewan pedigreed grass/legume seed production was dominated by alfalfa seed (16,400 acres). Timothy, with 4,300 acres, ranked 2nd, followed

by the bromegrasses (3,300 acres), clovers (2,000 acres) and ryegrass seed (1,300 acres), No other crop had occupied more than 500 acres.

B.C., mainly the B.C. Peace region, had 3,700 acres of production in 2017. Only one crop had more than 1,000 acres, that being timothy (2,000 acres), which is grown in the Peace region and around Creston.

Once again, almost all pedigreed grass/legume seed production occurred in the Western provinces, with only Quebec (30 acres of pedigreed timothy seed) have any acres east of the Manitoba border.

CFIA: 2017 Acres Applied For Inspection - Crop by Province, Acres												Change	%
Crop Kind	PEI	NS	NB	QUE	ONT	MB	SK	AB	BC	2017	2016	(+/-) AC's	change
Alfalfa						13,468	16,401	51,704		81,573	81,260	313	-0.39%
Birdsfoot Trefoil						2,772	100			2,872	2,107	765	-36.31%
Bromegrass						496	3,358	6,228	668	10,750	9,872	878	-8.89%
Clover						508	2,018	3,717		6,243	6,106	137	-2.24%
Fescue						7,091	456	10,328	800	18,675	19,398	(723)	3.73%
Ryegrass						16,457	1,065	1,562	120	19,204	25,386	(6,182)	24.35%
Timothy				50		20,473	4,355	10,063	2,236	37,177	42,246	(5,069)	12.00%
Wheatgrass							1,270	4,647	470	6,387	6,376	11	-0.17%
Total				50		70,684	34,578	83,731	3,707	182,881	192,751	(9,870)	5.12%

Crops:

Canadian pedigreed grass and legume seed production is led by **alfalfa** seed, with over 81,000 acres inspected in 2017 for pedigreed status. Pedigreed alfalfa seed production maintained its 80,000+ acreage level which it reached in 2016. With many alfalfa fields contracted back to American companies, total acreage remained 24,000 above the 10 year average. 2016/17 saw Canada export over 15.6 million lbs. of certified alfalfa seed. Another 8.3 million lbs. of seed was exported as common alfalfa. No data is available for certified alfalfa seed that may have been exported as part of a grass/legume seed mix.

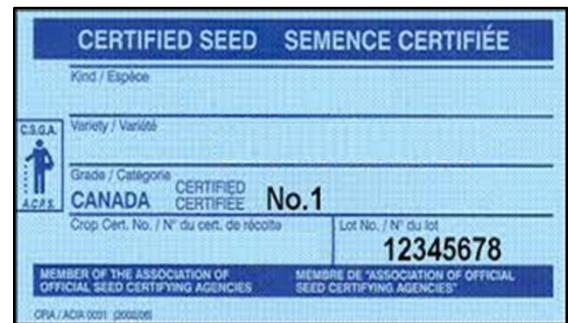


With large acres in Manitoba (over 20,000) and Alberta (over 10,000), **timothy** seed is Canada's 2nd most widely grown pedigreed grass/legume seed crop. With overproduction the past couple years and a large drop in prices, acres fell by over 5,000 from 2017. However, acres still remain above its 10 year average. Almost all timothy seed production in Canada is now certified, with export data showing over 95% (7.48 million lbs) of Canadian timothy seed exports in 2016-17 being certified seed.

Led by over 16,000 acres of production in Manitoba, **ryegrass** (mainly perennial), maintained its position as the 3rd most widely grown pedigreed grass/legume seed crop in Canada. This was despite a decrease of

6,200 acres from 2016. The total Canadian ryegrass seed production of 19,200 acres was 3,600 acres below the 10 year average.

Pedigreed **fescue** seed production fell by a marginal 700 acres in 2017. Pedigreed fescue seed production is led by creeping red fescue in the Peace region of Alberta and B.C., and tall fescue seed production in Manitoba. 2017 saw over 18,600 acres applied for inspection. Price quotes for pedigreed creeping red fescue can greatly influence acres one year to the next, as many fields eligible for certification may not be applied for if poor quotes are the norm.



Pedigreed **bromegrass** seed acres continue to rise, with over 5,000 new acres since 2014. 2017's acreage total of over 10,700 is the highest since 2009. Bromegrass seed production is mainly focused on meadow bromegrass and smooth bromegrass seed production.

Other crop notes:

Birds'-foot trefoil acres rose by 36% in 2017, with the 765 new acres resulting in over 2,800 acres inspected. However, this acreage total is still well below the 10 year average if over 4,700. Almost all pedigreed production is found in Manitoba.

Pedigreed **clover** seed production rose for the 3rd straight year. After reaching a recent acreage low of 2,500 acres in 2014, 2017 saw acres reach over 6,200. Canadian pedigreed clover seed production is dominated by red clover and alsike clover seed production.

Wheatgrass acres applied for inspection showed virtually no change, and remained steady at 6,400 acres, which is also the 10 year average. Canadian growers continue to grow a number of wheatgrass species, including crested, northern, slender, pubescent and intermediate wheatgrass.

Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Inspected Acres by Crop (2007 to 2017), Acres								
	Alfalfa	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Bromegrass	Clover	Fescue	Ryegrass	Timothy	Wheatgrass
2007	62,872	5,248	12,795	5,343	20,284	30,181	37,439	9,029
2008	57,057	5,707	12,353	4,186	23,131	25,084	38,403	8,644
2009	49,159	4,206	10,075	4,123	17,826	19,456	33,582	6,808
2010	50,866	4,143	7,694	3,195	14,453	30,112	26,454	7,596
2011	44,116	5,010	6,434	3,600	10,422	24,074	26,025	6,319
2012	47,456	7,315	5,138	3,886	10,875	18,469	33,012	5,290
2013	51,018	7,442	5,587	4,247	12,039	15,564	37,582	3,857
2014	56,319	3,910	5,372	2,494	10,230	15,714	41,271	4,959
2015	69,967	2,606	6,685	5,870	14,501	24,851	43,763	5,044
2016	81,260	2,107	9,872	6,106	19,398	25,386	42,246	6,376
2017	81,573	2,872	10,750	6,243	18,675	19,204	37,177	6,387
acre Δ	313	765	878	137	-723	-6,182	-5,069	11
10 Year Avg (2007-2016)	57,009.0	4,769.4	8,200.4	4,305.0	15,315.9	22,889.1	35,977.6	6392.3

Summary:

2017 saw almost all pedigreed Canadian grass and legume seed acres above their 10 year averages. Demand for Canadian certified seed continues, primarily in the form of contracted certified seed production back to contracting companies. As always, with an increase in acres there is the fear of over-production, which has already occurred in some species. However, pedigreed production of grass and legume seed will allow growers to continue to diversify their farm operations, and hopefully, continue to be profitable in the future. With the grains and oilseeds' sector constantly switching to more modern certified varieties, can grass and legume seed be far behind?



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 Dec 4, 2017
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