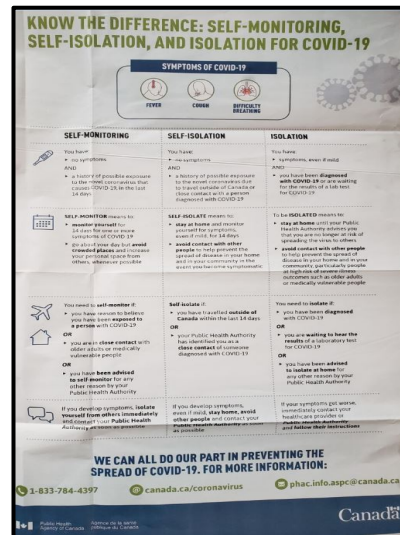


# Peace Region Grass and Legume Seed Market Update: Spring 2020

## Overview:

One day, down the road, when the world returns to a new normal, one may look back on this article and reflect: “Hey, that was the year we had that COVID 19 pandemic”. You’ll think of your friends and loved ones, what you did to isolate yourself to keep yourself safe, and what procedures and actions you took after the pandemic eased. I doubt if you’ll be reflecting on what grass and legume seed prices did. During this time of global change, there are more important things to reflect upon than these prices, but, to keep things in perspective, the world keeps turning and we must go on.



The winter of 2019-2020 has been a long one, with crop still out in the field following early snowfall across the prairie. And now, with spring approaching, snow is still abundant everywhere. All growers are hoping for a rapid meltdown, good spring conditions, and once again, good “harvest” conditions..... all in the next few weeks.

Processors have reported average movement of inventory out of their warehouses for contracted seed, but with much of the legume crops still in swaths and under snow, it is not know how much of this crop will be salvaged, and how markets will react. For now, overall, price quotes have remained good, but many are waiting to see how the grass and legume seed markets will react to the pandemic and spring harvest.

## Turf Grasses

With the COVID 19 virus forcing many employers in the USA to lay off employees, and with the “stay at home/isolation” mandate in place, it’s hard to say which direction turf grass seed movement will go this spring. People are at home, and it doesn’t cost much to buy a bag of seed (from business still open) to beautify your home. However, if funds are limited, do you save your money for more essentials? (eg: food/shelter). At present, processors are quoting common creeping red fescue at 75 ¢ /lb. for both spot pricing and fall prices.



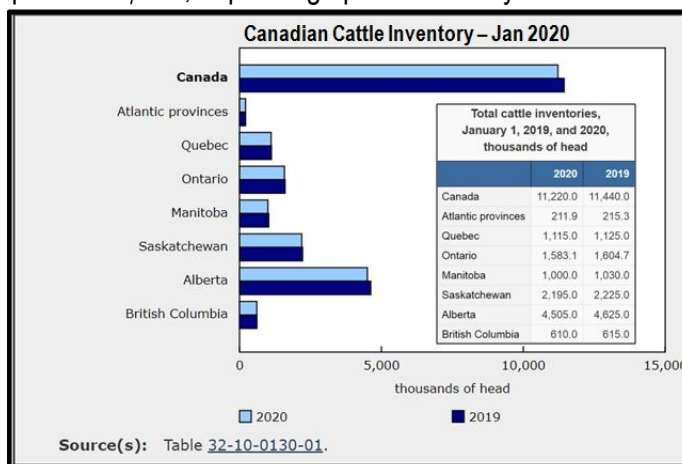
Peace River Region Grass and Legume Seed Quotes (\$/lb.)					
	2019				2020
	Jan	May	Sept	Dec	Apr
Alfalfa Common	0.67	0.65	.70 -.75	0.72	0.85
Alfalfa Certified*	1.19	1.00-1.20	1.00-1.10	1.25-1.30	1.30-1.40
Alsike Common	1.13	1.05-1.15	1.00	0.94	1.00-1.15
Alsike Certified	1.38	1.10-1.20	1.10-1.15	1.05-1.10	1.15-1.30
Sweet Clover Common	1.08	.50-.55	.35-.50	0.41	0.40
Red Clover Common	1.25	.85-.90	.80 -.86	1.01	.95-1.00
Smooth Brome Common	1.15	1.15-1.20	.85-1.15	0.99	1.00-1.15
Smooth Brome Certified	1.34	1.20-1.30	1.00-1.30	1.15	1.15-1.30
Meadow Brome Common	1.03	1.00-1.20	1.00-1.15	1.15	1.00-1.25
Meadow Brome Certified	1.06	1.20-1.40	1.15-1.30	1.30	1.10-1.45
Creeping Red Fescue-Com	0.52	.80-.90	.70 -.75	0.72	0.75
Creeping Red Fescue-Cert	0.91	.80-.93	.72 -.80	0.70	0.80
Timothy Common	0.36	.35-.40	.30 -.45	0.41	0.45
Timothy Certified*	0.53	0.45	.45 -.55	0.55	0.55

### Forage Grasses

Canadian cow numbers fell in the January Cattle inventory report, with numbers across Canada falling by 220,000 head to 11.2 million. However, with soil moisture conditions in excellent shape for this upcoming year, it is hoped that cattlemen will reseed fields and pastures despite the fall in cattle prices and numbers.

Smooth brome grass quotes for common seed are in the \$1.00 to \$1.15 /lb. range with certified Carlton asking a 15 ¢ /lb. premium. Common meadow brome grass quotes are in the \$1.00 to \$1.25 /lb. range, with certified Fleet being quoted in the \$1.15 to \$1.45 /lb. range. Timothy seed (common) is now

quoted at the 45 ¢ /lb. mark, finally reaching long term average prices after a few years of over surplus in bins and warehouses. Certified timothy varieties are being quoted 10 ¢ /lb., depending upon the variety.



### Legume Seed

Alfalfa seed quotes have jumped up to over 80 ¢ /lb., with certified varieties commanding premiums of 55 ¢ /lb. or more. With the majority of alsike and red clover seed fields unharvested ....yet, firm quotes are yet to be forthcoming, but prices are said to be in the 95 ¢ /lb. mark for common red clover seed, while alsike

clover seed quotes are in the \$1.00 to \$1.15 /lb. range. Until we see if, or how much spring harvesting yields, processors and buyers may not commit to an actual price. Sweet clover is being quoted at 40 ¢ /lb.

### **Summary**

Uncertainty has hit the grass and legume seed marketplace again, with COVID 19 effects on demand unknown at this time, and supplies of clover crops uncertain pending spring harvest, one can only rely on recent quotes to at least get a price picture on the various grass and legume seed species. Like in the past, time will once again dictate supply and demand, and resultant prices as we move forward and see how this marketplace unfolds. Until then, keep it safe.

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