

Call of the Land for Jan 4 - 2011

Grass and Legume Seed Market update

Note: prices provided are normally given as grower prices, quoted by processors to growers after cleaning and dockage. However, with quotes now not being offered by many companies, last quotes may be provided.

Well, for the 3rd straight year now, the grass and legume seed market has rolled into a new year without much fanfare or in a party mood. Companies are shipping previously purchased seed, but not much has happened on the selling end of things. Hopefully, this year may prove to be a swing year, as inventories are starting to drift lower with lower production. However, the industry is still waiting for the demand side of things to kick start this whole grass and legume seed sector.

The turf grass seed end of things remains quiet. Quotes for creeping red fescue seed continue to be in the 30 to 32¢/lb range, with very little grower selling. End user demand continues to be slow. With these low price quotes and an expected very small 2011 creeper crop, growers may be wise to hold onto their seed for now. However, if older seed is still around, it may have to be moved soon.

Some interest is being shown for our forage grasses, but price movement has been limited. Smooth brome grass seed quotes are really being thrown around, with quotes for common in the 50 to 60 ¢/lb range, with certified up to 70 to 75 ¢/lb. Meadow brome grass prices have settled into the 60-80 ¢/lb range, with certified Fleet up to a dollar /lb. Lots of meadow brome grass inventory remains across the prairies. Timothy seed has settled into the 40 ¢/lb range, with certified at 55 to 60 ¢/lb. Good quality seed is driving the upper range of these price quotes.

Demand for the clovers has picked up, with price improvements seen for alsike and sweet clover. Alsike quotes are now up to the 60 to 85 ¢/lb range, while offers of up to a \$1.00/lb for sweet clover have been tossed around. Red clover quotes remain in the 55 to 70 ¢/lb range. Spring will see what new demand emerges. Alfalfa seed price quotes remain in the \$1.25 to \$1.40/lb range.

In summary, it's a good thing commodity prices for other crops are good, therefore grass seed growers can hold onto inventories to wait for better pricing opportunities. Hopefully, demand in this new year will bring a turn-around and get the grass and legume seed sector moving again.

Grass and Legume Seed Quotes

	Creeping Red Fescue	Boreal C R Fescue	Smooth Brome grass	Carlton Smooth Brome grass	Meadow Brome grass	Fleet Meadow Brome grass	Timothy	Climax Timothy	Alfalfa	Red Clover	Alsike Clover	Sweet Clover
	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Cert #1	Com #1	Com #1	Com #1	Com #1
Jan 5-10	40	45	35-40	40-45	80-120	120-140	28-30	40	110-145	50-70	35-45	30-40
2-Feb	35-40	40-45	35-40	40-45	70-110	120-130	25-30	40	115-140	50-70	35-45	30-40
2-Mar	35-40	40-45	35-40	40-45	70-110	120-130	25-30	40	125-140	50-70	35-45	30-40
7-Apr	35-40	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-110	120-130	25-30	40	120-145	50-70	35-45	30-40
4-May	35-38	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-100	100-120	25-30	40	120-145	50-65	35-45	30-40
31-May	35-38	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-100	100-120	25-30	40	120-145	50-65	35-45	30-40
5-Jul	35-38	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-100	100-120	25-30	40	120-145	50-65	35-45	30-40
3-Aug	32-35	35-37	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	25-35	40-45	100-140	50-60	35-45	30-40
31-Aug	32-35	35-37	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	32-40	40-45	120-140	50-60	35-45	40-50
5-Oct	30-32	35	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	35-40	40-45	120-140	55-60	50-60	50-60
Nov 2	30-32	35	35-40	60-70	60-80	80-120	40	42-45	120-140	55-65	60-70	60-75
Nov 30	30-32	35	40-45	60-80	60-80	80-100	40	45-50	120-140	55-65	60-75	70-85
Jan 4-11	30-32	35	50-60	60-80	60-80	80-100	40	55-60	120-140	60-70	60-85	70-100

Prices are quotes only, until actual orders come in, that's when firm pricing is established