

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – July 5, 2011

Price quotes for most species have now settled into a last quote routine, with the markets basically settling into whatever prices were quoted late spring. With very little new crop buying between processors and growers, and with the new crop still growing in the field, crop pricing won't be set in stone until someone figures out how much production is out there. One thing we do know is that acres are down for all species, both grass and legume.

Fall quotes for creeping red fescue are now in the 45 ¢/lb range, with certified Boreal creeping red fescue commanding a good 10 ¢ +/lb premium, with good demand from the EU. With acres short this year, prices should remain in the 45 ¢/lb plus range this fall. However, this will be determined by turf grass demand from the USA.

The forage grass seed markets are expected to hold their own. With expected production down due to lower acres, there's already talk of good price quotes for some forage grass species. However, until cheques are written, most quotes remain unchanged from my last report. Last smooth brome grass seed quotes were in the 60 to 85 ¢/lb, with certified Carlton at a 15 to 25 ¢/lb premium. Meadow brome grass quotes remain in the 75 to 85 ¢/lb range, with certified Fleet 20 to 30 ¢/lb higher. Timothy is still quoted at 45 ¢/lb, but there is room for movement. Certified Climax timothy is commanding a 15 to 20 ¢/lb premium.

Clover seed quotes remain around 60 to 70 ¢/lb for common red clover, and 75 to 90 ¢/lb for alsike clover. Sweet clover quotes have moved into the 50 to 80 ¢/lb range, while alfalfa seed quotes remain in the \$1.30 to \$1.45/lb range.

With inventories now down due to production decreases the past few years, any demand could have a significant bullish affect on pricing. With this year's crop still a ways to go until harvest, no one wants to gamble on price speculation, yet. But, compared to the prices and market conditions a year ago, things are starting to look up.

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
5 Jul -10	35-38	40-42	35-40	40-45	70-100	100-120	25-30	40	120-145	50-65	35-45	30-40
Aug 3	32-35	35-37	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	25-35	40-45	100-140	50-60	35-45	30-40
Aug 31	32-35	35-37	35-40	40-45	60-80	80-110	32-40	40-45	120-140	50-60	35-45	40-50
Oct 5	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
Feb 1	30-32	35	50-60	60-80	60-80	80-100	40	55-60	120-140	60-70	60-85	70-100
Mar 1	32-34	37	55-65	75-90	60-80	80-100	40-42	55-60	120-140	65-75	60-85	80-110
Mar 29	35	40-48	55-65	75-90	60-80	80-100	40-42	55-60	120-140	65-75	60-85	80-110
Apr 26	35-40	45-48	60-70	70-80	75-85	100-115	45	55-65	125-145	65-70	75-95	65-85
June 7	35-38	45-50	60-70	70-85	75-85	100-115	45	55-65	130-145	65-70	75-95	65-85
July 5	40-45	50-55	60-75	70-85	75-85	100-115	45-50	55-65	130-145	65-70	75-95	50-80

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