

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – July 31, 2012

The combines have started to roll in the Peace River region of Alberta. The 2012 creeping red fescue harvest has begun. Fine fescue fields have been harvested the past 2 to 3 weeks, but now it's the major grass seed crop's turn to get combined. However, acres are down, so if Mother Nature cooperates, harvest shouldn't take that long.

Price wise, most species' price quotes are at a standstill. The Oregon harvest in the USA has been delayed by extended wet weather this spring and early summer. And the severe drought conditions in the US Mid-west have hampered the grass seed fields in Kansas and Missouri. Until the harvest comes in and the forage seed trade can evaluate this year's production, don't expect prices to stabilize for a couple months. In Canada, our Alberta crop looks to be in good shape, although acres are down.

Creeping red fescue quotes remain around 50 ¢/lb, with fall quotes up to 55 ¢/lb. Certified boreal is quoted at a 5 ¢/lb premium.

With inventories of most forage grass species down, quotes for forage grass species are expected to remain strong. Smooth brome grass seed is still in the \$1.40 to \$1.60/lb range, with a 10-15 ¢/lb premium for certified. Meadow brome remains in the \$1.05 to \$1.15/lb range with certified Fleet meadow brome quotes in the \$1.30 to \$1.40 range. Timothy seed quotes remain historically high, around 70 ¢/lb for common, with a 10 to 15 ¢/lb premium for certified. Acres for the forage grasses remain an unknown, but it is expected that the strong canola and wheat prices this spring has decreased seed production acres.

On the legume side of things, alfalfa remains quoted in the \$1.65 to \$1.80/lb range, with red clover seed quotes settling into that 65 – 75 ¢/lb range. Last quotes for alsike clover seed was in still over \$1.00/lb. Sweet clover seed have seen its quotes fall into the 50 to 70 ¢/lb. range.

Low carry-in inventories and low 2012 production acres should keep grass and legume seed quotes strong for the next few months. New production and demand is will be determined following harvest, but don't expect quotes to become firm until actual processor/end user business starts taking place.

Grass and Legume Seed Quotes (quotes in ¢/lb)

	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
July 5-11	40-45	50-55	60-75	70-85	75-85	100-115	45-50	55-65	130-145	65-70	75-95	50-80
Aug 2	42-45	50-55	60-78	70-90	75-90	100-120	50-55	55-70	130-145	65-75	75-95	50-80
Aug 30	45	50-55	70-85	90-100	80-95	100-130	60-70	80+	130-145	70-80	85-100	60-85
Sept 20	45	55	90-125	120-135	90-110	120-130	65-75	80-90	130-145	75-90	85-110	60-85
Oct 25	50	55	100-130	135-140	90-120	130-140	70-75	80-100	130-145	80-90	100-110	60-85
Dec 6	45-48	55	110-140	140-150	90-110	120-130	70-75	80-100	150-165	80-90	100-115	60-85
Jan 3-12	45-48	55-60	110-130	140-150	100-130	120-140	70-75	80-100	150-165	75-90	100-115	60-85
Jan 30	46-48	55	110-125	140-150	110-125	120-140	70-75	85-95	150-165	65-80	100-115	70-80
Mar 12	46-50	55	125-145	160-165	120-125	135-140	70-75	85-90	160-170	65-75	100-110	70-80
Apr 10	48-50	55-60	130-155	160-165	120-125	135-145	70-75	85-90	160-170	65-70	100-110	60-80
May 8	48-50	55-60	140-165	160-170	105-115	130-140	70-75	85-90	160-180	65-70	100-120	60-80
June 4	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100-125	65-75
July 3	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100	65-75
Aug 1	50	55-60	140-165	160-175	105 - 115	130-140	70-75	80-90	165-180	65-75	100	50-70