

Grass and Legume Seed Market Update – Jan 4, 2012

Typically, January and February in the grass and legume seed industry brings market doldrums, and this year is no exception. Except for previous orders, which are keeping the processors cleaning lines going, new orders for seed are few and far between. Not unexpected. Depending upon projected spring demand by end users, orders won't be ramping up anytime in the near future. With hand to mouth buying now the norm, a lot of seed buying is not occurring until seed is required. However, inventories are getting tighter, so end users may have to take this into account when contemplating new orders.

Prices for most crops have stabilized now that the fall run is over. Creeping red fescue quotes have settled into the 42 to 45 ¢/lb range, with certified boreal up to 55 ¢/lb, a good 8 to 10 ¢/lb premium. However, acres of certified creeping red fescue in 2011 fell again, the 4th consecutive year. Certified Alberta acreage, which stood at 14,500 in 2008, fell to under 6,600 acres in 2011.

The forage grass quotes have stabilized following this past fall's run-up in prices. Smooth brome grass quotes remain strong, in the \$1.20 to \$1.40/lb range, with certified Carlton showing a 10 ¢/lb premium. Meadow brome grass seed quotes are in the 1.10 ¢/lb to \$1.25/lb range. Certified Fleet meadow brome is quoted up to \$1.40/lb. Timothy seed quotes have settled in around the 70 to 75 ¢/lb range, but looking long-term, this is a strong price quote. With Certified timothy seed production down last year, quotes for certified Climax timothy are showing a 10 to 20 ¢/lb premium.

With good seed movement in the fall, legume seed prices quotes have backed off with the slow movement in the New Year. Red clover seed prices have settled into the 70 to 80 ¢/lb range, while the strong demand for alsike clover seed, pushed quotes up to the \$1.00 to \$1.15/lb range. Sweet clover quotes were anywhere's from 65 to 80 ¢/lb. However, with demand lacking right now, true price quotes may not be discovered until actual buying re-enters the marketplace.

With alfalfa seed acres in Canada down, prices have remained steady from the fall. Price quotes for common alfalfa seed is in the \$1.50 to \$1.65/lb range, with Variety not stated varieties 10 to 15 ¢/lb higher.

In conclusion, with a lack of immediate buying, the grass and legume seed marketplace is in a wait and see mode. "Wait" for the demand to pick up for spring deliveries, and "see" what quotes will get thrown around out there.

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 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
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 30-12	46-48	55	110-125	140-150	110-125	120-140	70-75	85-95	150-165	65-80	100-115	70-80