

# Historical Grass and Legume Seed Prices: 1970 to 2018

## 2018 Summary

### Overall:

Depending upon the crop, prices remain either in the high range of historical pricing, or have hit the doldrums due to recent surplus production

Creeping red fescue, meadow brome grass and alsike clover remain above the recent 10 year average prices for that particular crop, while timothy seed (both common and certified) and sweet clover seed have fallen significantly below the recent 10 year average price.

2018 saw a disastrous **creeping red fescue** come off in the Peace country, with yields estimated in the 250 to 300 lb/acre range. Prices had crept up to the 86 to 88 ¢/lb. range in recent years, and this poor crop should push prices over the 90 ¢/lb. mark, but this should be reflected in future pricing (2019 prices).

With huge yields in 2015 and 2016, **timothy** seed quotes remain at extremely low levels. Certified timothy seed prices averaged 54 ¢/lb. in 2018. This average price was 19% lower than the 10 year average price. The majority of timothy seed is now of certified production. Common timothy seed prices were even worse, with average prices (28 ¢/lb.) 49% below the 10 year average. With processors taking in their contracted timothy seed, no one was looking for common timothy seed.



After peaking in 2015 (\$2.38/lb.), **smooth brome grass** average seed price have moved down to the \$1.30 to \$1.35/lb. range the past 2 years. High prices made for increased acres and production in recent years.

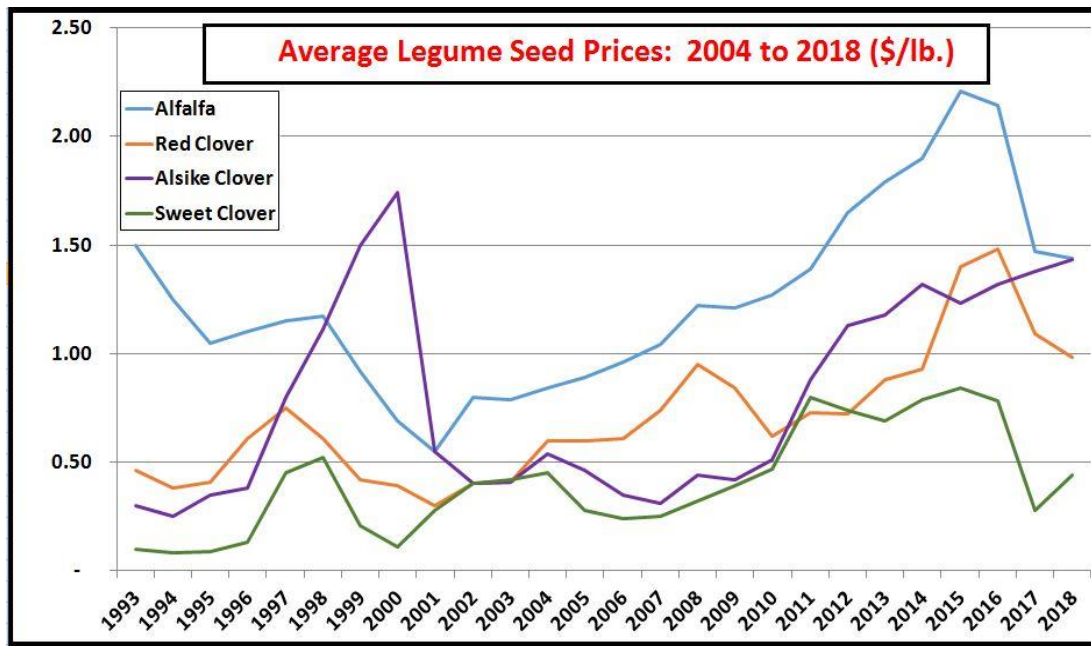
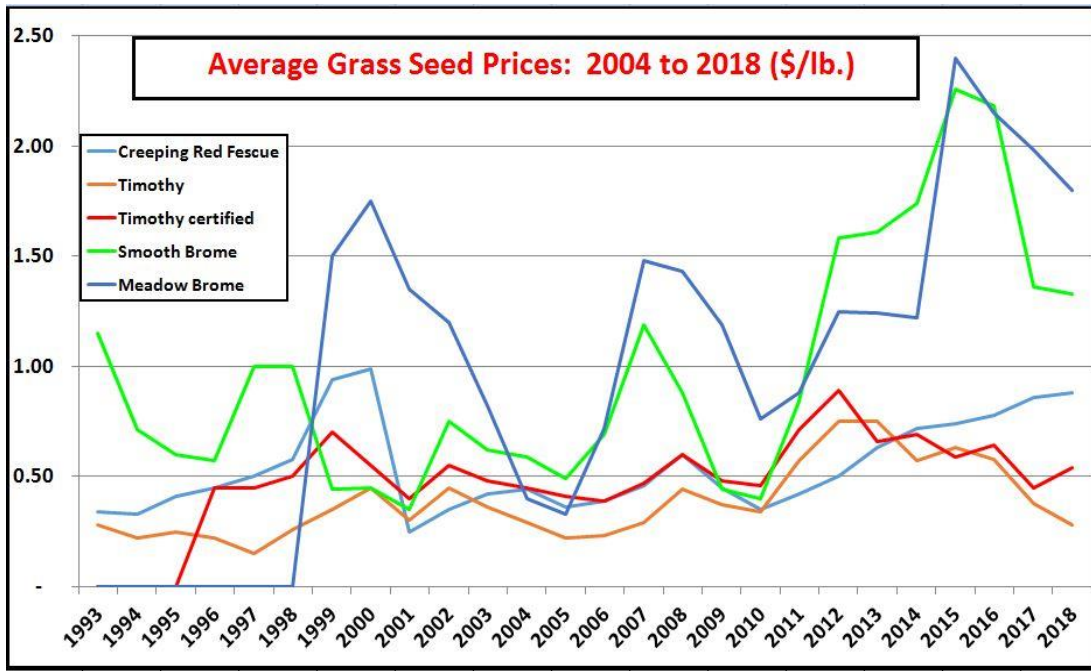
**Meadow brome grass** seed prices also peaked in 2015 at a \$2.52/lb. average, 14¢/lb. higher than smooth brome. 2018 saw the average price fall to \$1.80/lb., after dropping to an average price of \$1.98/lb. in 2017.

**Alfalfa** seed production in the Peace region is limited, and follows price trends set in the other parts of the western prairies (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Brooks area of Alberta). With huge alfalfa seed crops in recent years across the prairies, and resultant surplus stock, prices have tumbled down to average \$1.44/lb., down 70 ¢/lb. from just two years earlier.

**Red clover** seed prices have fallen to an average price of 98 ¢/lb., down from an average of \$1.09 in 2017, but still above the 10 year average of ¢/lb. The demand for **alsike clover seed** remains “hot”, with 2018

average price (\$1.43/lb.) setting a recent high, and well above the 10 year average price of 98 ¢/lb. The **sweet clover** seed price for 2018 was 44 ¢/lb., well below the 10 year average price of 78 ¢/lb. However, seed production and subsequent sales is minimal.

<b>Yearly Average Prices Paid to Producers - 1970 to 2018</b>									
	<b>Creeping Red Fescue</b>	<b>Timothy</b>	<b>Timothy certified</b>	<b>Smooth Brome</b>	<b>Meadow Brome</b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Red Clover</b>	<b>Alsike Clover</b>	<b>Sweet Clover</b>
1970	0.15	0.08	-	0.11	-	0.30	0.12	0.08	0.03
1971	0.22	0.08	-	0.10	-	0.28	0.09	0.08	0.05
1972	0.27	0.17	-	0.10	-	0.38	0.12	0.10	0.05
1973	0.40	0.30	-	0.32	-	0.80	0.20	0.25	0.06
1974	0.20	0.18	-	0.25	-	0.55	0.25	0.25	0.11
1975	0.12	0.13	-	0.15	-	0.50	0.28	0.28	0.08
1976	0.20	0.20	--	0.35	-	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.10
1977	0.35	0.55	-	0.40	-	0.75	0.40	0.20	0.10
1978	0.40	0.45	-	0.45	-	1.10	0.35	0.15	0.08
1979	0.60	0.40	--	0.45	-	1.45	0.22	0.12	0.08
1980	0.65	0.55	-	0.45	-	1.40	0.15	0.10	0.13
1981	0.45	0.15	-	0.43	-	0.90	0.15	0.10	0.15
1982	0.35	0.20	-	0.40	-	0.95	0.45	0.25	0.20
1983	0.40	0.23	-	0.45	-	0.95	0.40	0.23	0.23
1984	0.25	0.15	-	0.45	-	0.95	0.35	0.18	0.14
1985	0.45	0.32	-	0.45	-	1.18	0.50	0.27	0.18
1986	0.50	0.44	-	1.25	-	1.35	0.67	0.37	0.28
1987	0.72	0.65	-	1.70	-	1.35	0.45	0.55	0.25
1988	0.50	0.41	-	0.40	-	1.05	0.28	0.23	0.08
1989	0.38	0.18	-	0.31	-	0.95	0.24	0.24	0.06
1990	0.21	0.15	-	0.25	-	1.05	0.23	0.22	0.07
1991	0.46	0.21	-	0.45	-	0.70	0.23	0.23	0.08
1992	0.70	0.27	-	0.61	-	1.20	0.38	0.29	0.12
1993	0.34	0.28	-	1.15	-	1.50	0.46	0.30	0.10
1994	0.33	0.22	-	0.71	-	1.25	0.38	0.25	0.08
1995	0.41	0.25	-	0.60	-	1.05	0.41	0.35	0.09
1996	0.45	0.22	0.45	0.57	-	1.10	0.61	0.38	0.13
1997	0.50	0.15	0.45	1.00	-	1.15	0.75	0.80	0.45
1998	0.58	0.26	0.50	1.00	-	1.17	0.61	1.11	0.52
1999	0.94	0.35	0.70	0.44	1.50	0.92	0.42	1.50	0.21
2000	0.99	0.45	0.55	0.45	1.75	0.69	0.39	1.74	0.11
2001	0.25	0.30	0.40	0.35	1.35	0.55	0.30	0.55	0.28
2002	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.75	1.20	0.80	0.40	0.40	0.40
2003	0.42	0.36	0.48	0.62	0.82	0.79	0.41	0.41	0.42
2004	0.44	0.29	0.45	0.59	0.40	0.84	0.60	0.54	0.45
2005	0.36	0.22	0.41	0.49	0.33	0.89	0.60	0.46	0.28
2006	0.39	0.23	0.39	0.69	0.72	0.96	0.61	0.35	0.24
2007	0.46	0.29	0.47	1.19	1.48	1.04	0.74	0.31	0.25
2008	0.60	0.44	0.60	0.88	1.43	1.22	0.95	0.44	0.32
2009	0.45	0.37	0.48	0.44	1.19	1.21	0.84	0.42	0.39
2010	0.35	0.34	0.46	0.40	0.76	1.27	0.62	0.51	0.47
2011	0.42	0.57	0.71	0.84	0.88	1.39	0.73	0.88	0.80
2012	0.50	0.75	0.89	1.58	1.25	1.65	0.72	1.13	0.74
2013*	0.63	0.75	0.66	1.61	1.24	1.79	0.88	1.18	0.69
2014*	0.72	0.57	0.69	1.74	1.22	1.90	0.93	1.32	0.79
2015*	0.74	0.63	0.59	2.26	2.40	2.21	1.40	1.23	0.84
2017*	0.86	0.38	0.45	1.36	1.98	1.47	1.09	1.38	0.28
2018**	0.88	0.28	0.54	1.33	1.80	1.44	0.98	1.43	0.44
10 yr avg 2008 - 2017	0.61	0.54	0.62	1.33	1.45	1.63	0.96	0.98	0.61
*Revised July 2019			**Preliminary						



Prepared for Peace Region Forage Seed Association by:

David Wong  
 B.Sc. Ag., B.Ed., CACE  
 Beaverlodge, Alberta  
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