

## Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Data: 2019-2020 Grass and Legume Seed Exports

### Overview:

The 2019/20 trade year (by crop year) saw Canadian grass and legume seed exports rebound nicely from the previous year, up by almost 8 million lbs. from 2018/19. However, the value of these exports only increased by \$1 million. By quantity, trade was led by alfalfa seed (32.6 million lbs.), creeping red fescue (25.6 million lbs.), and perennial ryegrass (20.0 million lbs.). Creeping red fescue exports improved greatly from the previous year, as exports improved by 7.8 million lbs. (a 43% increase in exports).

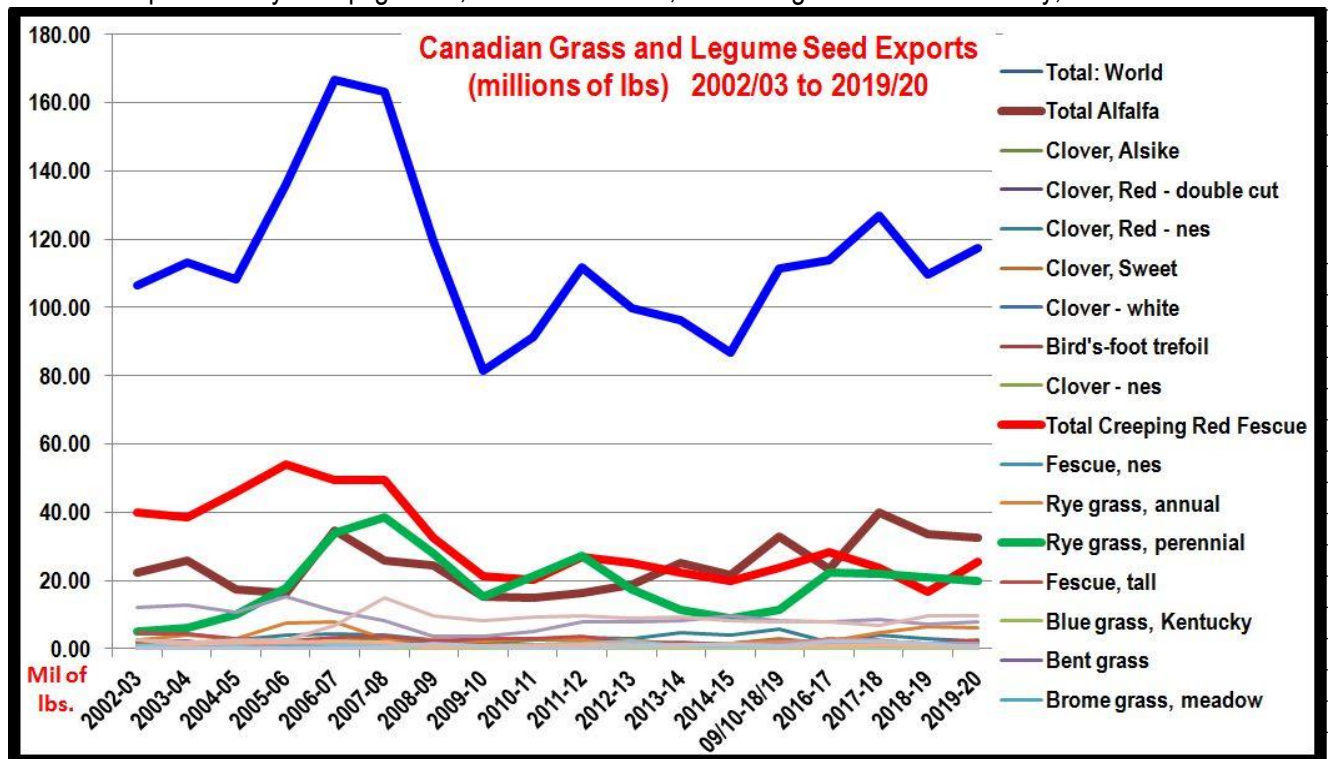


No other crops had over 10 million lbs. in exports, with timothy seed ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in exports at 7.99 million lbs.

Alfalfa seed exports, by far, brought in the most value to Canada. \$61 million worth of alfalfa seed, split almost evenly between certified and common, was exported out of Canada in the 2019/20 crop year. The USA accounted for 50% of these alfalfa seed exports.

Our other two major crops, creeping red fescue and perennial ryegrass accounted for \$22.5 million and \$19.0 million in exports respectively. Almost all “creeper” production (92%) headed across the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, while perennial ryegrass exports into the USA accounted for 57% of Canada’s total perennial exports.

**Note:** Data provided by Jianqing Chen, Statistics Branch, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Edmonton



**Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Species/Crop Year,  
2014/15 to 2019/20: Quantity (Millions of lbs.)**

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	5 yr. Avg. (14/15-
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>86.61</b>	<b>111.50</b>	<b>114.02</b>	<b>127.07</b>	<b>109.59</b>	<b>117.37</b>	<b>109.76</b>
Alfalfa, cert	12.99	21.73	15.17	21.76	19.26	14.79	18.18
Alfalfa, o/t cert	8.49	11.21	8.38	18.28	14.23	17.87	12.12
Red clover, double cut	0.29	2.07	0.38	0.80	0.25	0.21	0.76
Red clover, nes	3.91	5.94	1.98	3.92	2.95	2.17	3.74
Sweet clover	1.58	3.12	1.42	0.86	0.85	1.00	1.57
Alsike clover	1.49	2.55	1.19	2.11	1.64	2.08	1.79
White clover	0.37	2.13	1.98	0.38	0.05	0.37	0.98
Clover, nes	0.17	0.40	0.15	0.06	0.04	0.11	0.17
Creeping red fescue, cert	2.56	2.48	6.67	1.35	0.55	1.00	2.72
Creeping red fescue, o/t cert	17.39	21.22	21.73	22.41	16.23	24.57	19.80
Tall fescue	1.10	1.24	2.92	2.14	1.55	2.45	1.79
Meadow fescue	1.12	2.04	2.66	2.69	1.18	1.04	1.94
Fescue, nes	0.55	0.35	0.43	0.62	0.20	0.36	0.43
Kentucky blue grass	0.52	0.36	0.45	0.65	0.58	0.15	0.51
Rye grass, annual	1.66	2.16	2.38	4.57	6.38	6.25	3.43
Rye grass, perennial	8.81	11.24	22.34	22.07	20.99	20.02	17.09
Brome grass, meadow	0.58	0.61	0.67	0.72	0.36	0.42	0.59
Brome grass, smooth	0.16	0.65	1.37	1.22	1.40	1.41	0.96
Brome grass, nes	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Wheatgrass, crested	0.71	0.90	1.42	1.02	0.90	0.94	0.99
Wheatgrass, nes	1.50	0.85	0.78	1.04	0.81	1.02	1.00
Bent grass	0.57	0.00	0.22	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.16
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.90	1.25	1.16	0.89	0.90	0.83	1.02
Orchard grass	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.07
Timothy grass, cert	9.59	7.90	7.53	8.20	6.75	7.50	7.99
Timothy grass, other than cert	0.07	0.20	0.37	0.33	0.53	0.44	0.30
Wild rye	1.19	0.92	2.35	2.10	1.39	0.54	1.59
Seed of forage plants, nes	8.23	7.92	7.81	6.85	9.56	9.80	8.07
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>86.61</b>	<b>111.50</b>	<b>114.02</b>	<b>127.07</b>	<b>109.59</b>	<b>117.37</b>	<b>109.76</b>

**Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Species/Crop Year,  
2014/15 to 2019/20: Value (Millions of \$)**

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	5 yr. Avg. (14/15-
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>134.79</b>	<b>179.31</b>	<b>162.59</b>	<b>183.62</b>	<b>160.70</b>	<b>161.67</b>	<b>164.20</b>
Alfalfa, cert	29.62	47.45	33.69	44.88	38.67	29.85	38.86
Alfalfa, o/t cert	22.62	30.69	23.48	38.87	29.67	31.03	29.07
Red clover, double cut	0.52	2.19	0.77	1.11	0.54	0.46	1.03
Red clover, nes	3.54	5.07	1.67	3.02	2.51	2.05	3.16
Sweet clover	1.64	2.53	1.49	0.96	0.92	1.01	1.51
Alsike clover	3.16	4.45	2.14	3.74	3.11	3.55	3.32
White clover	0.31	1.77	1.54	0.33	0.06	0.36	0.80
Clover, nes	0.37	0.60	0.34	0.11	0.09	0.25	0.30
Creeping red fescue, cert	2.26	2.02	5.26	1.48	0.77	1.05	2.36
Creeping red fescue, o/t cert	18.32	24.16	24.17	26.94	22.20	28.40	23.16
Tall fescue	0.80	0.85	2.07	1.52	1.24	1.93	1.30
Meadow fescue	1.06	2.03	2.06	2.04	1.07	1.06	1.65
Fescue, nes	0.75	0.63	0.75	1.23	0.33	0.76	0.74
Kentucky blue grass	0.74	0.52	0.69	0.91	0.69	0.22	0.71
Rye grass, annual	0.85	1.43	1.52	2.98	4.60	4.29	2.28
Rye grass, perennial	9.54	13.88	25.15	23.13	23.18	22.43	18.98
Brome grass, meadow	1.40	2.07	2.12	1.38	0.62	0.78	1.52
Brome grass, smooth	0.48	1.74	3.44	2.19	2.64	2.48	2.10
Brome grass, nes	0.22	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.05
Wheatgrass, crested	1.86	2.88	3.30	2.57	2.50	2.42	2.62
Wheatgrass, nes	4.66	2.29	1.73	2.75	2.21	2.54	2.73
bent grass	0.13	-	0.16	0.04	-	-	0.07
Bird's-foot trefoil	2.67	3.87	3.19	2.60	3.50	3.15	3.17
Orchard grass	0.29	0.33	0.22	0.12	0.19	0.14	0.23
Timothy grass, cert	12.32	10.56	7.73	7.41	6.91	8.66	8.99
Timothy grass, other than cert	0.10	0.25	0.36	0.27	0.40	0.42	0.28
Wild rye	1.48	1.45	2.60	3.11	1.86	0.78	2.10
Seed of forage plants, nes	13.08	13.61	10.91	7.92	10.18	11.60	11.14
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>134.79</b>	<b>179.31</b>	<b>162.59</b>	<b>183.62</b>	<b>160.70</b>	<b>161.67</b>	<b>164.20</b>

**Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Trade by Provinces**

Canada's 3 Prairie Provinces continue to provide the majority of the grass and legume seed production in Canada. In terms of quantity, Manitoba held steady with 54.8 million lbs. of Canada's grass/legume seed exports (46.6% of Canada's exports). Alberta increased its' exports by 5.5 million lbs. in 2019/20, resulting in 40.8 million

lbs. of exported seed (34.7% of Canada's total), while Saskatchewan exported 18.5 million lbs. of seed (15.7% of Canada's total). Be aware that Customs Canada records the province where seed exits out of, and may include seed grown in another province but exported by a company in another province.

**Manitoba's** 2019/20 seed exports brought back \$74 million worth revenue to it's' farmers, led by perennial ryegrass and alfalfa seed (common) sales. By volume, annual ryegrass seed ranked third, but only \$3.7 million.

**Alberta's** grass and legume seed exports were led by their Peace River countries common creeping red fescue crop, which saw 23.6 million lbs. of exports (\$27.2 million), with certified seed bringing in \$13.2 million off 5.56 million lbs. of seed. 3 million lbs. of certified timothy seed exports brought \$2.9 million back into Alberta.

<b>Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Province: Quantity (Mil. of lbs.)</b>						
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20
<b>Canada: Total Exports</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>113.2</b>	<b>126.2</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>117.4</b>
Manitoba	36.7	46.3	48.0	56.9	54.5	54.8
Alberta	32.2	39.2	41.4	47.4	35.3	40.8
Saskatchewan	11.1	18.1	17.0	17.2	15.3	18.5
Ontario	3.3	3.5	3.5	1.5	1.9	1.9
British Columbia	1.6	1.4	1.6	0.8	1.1	0.7
Quebec	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.4	0.6	0.6
New Brunswick	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

<b>Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Province: Value (Mil. of CDN \$)</b>						
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20
<b>Canada: Total Exports</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>179.3</b>	<b>162.6</b>	<b>183.6</b>	<b>160.7</b>	<b>161.7</b>
Manitoba	61.4	74.6	63.0	71.8	72.6	74.0
Alberta	45.8	62.9	61.2	79.6	61.5	56.3
Saskatchewan	19.6	29.1	24.9	25.7	22.1	27.3
Ontario	5.4	8.4	9.3	2.7	2.4	2.4
Quebec	1.3	3.0	2.3	3.0	0.9	1.0
British Columbia	1.3	1.4	1.7	0.8	1.3	0.7
New Brunswick	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Nova Scotia	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



**2019/20 Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Species and Province:  
Quantity (Mil. of lbs.), Value (CDN \$)**

	Manitoba		Alberta		Saskatchewan	
	Quantity (Mil.lbs.)	Value	Quantity (Mil.lbs.)	Value	Quantity (Mil.lbs.)	Value
<b>Provincial Totals</b>	<b>54.77</b>	<b>73,958,798</b>	<b>40.85</b>	<b>56,343,358</b>	<b>18.52</b>	<b>27,314,453</b>
Rye grass, perennial	18.18	20,242,133	0.27	264,798	1.41	1,648,363
Alfalfa, o/t cert	11.06	19,533,622	1.15	2,972,872	5.57	8,363,803
Rye grass, annual	5.59	3,702,723	0	0	0.06	120,888
Alfalfa, cert	4.88	9,061,179	5.56	13,242,732	4.09	6,959,620
Seed of forage plants, nes	4.03	6,010,693	3.64	3,069,319	1.14	1,367,854
Timothy grass, cert	3.33	4,310,384	2.99	2,890,286	1.13	1,401,610
Tall fescue	2.40	1,904,567	0	0	0	0
Meadow fescue	0.93	950,787	0	0	0.03	46,017
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.80	3,047,116	0	0	0.01	48,577
Red clover, nes	0.76	986,581	0.03	71,993	1.32	914,485
Sweet clover	0.53	406,526	0.02	16,995	0.42	554,121
Creeping red fescue, o/t cert	0.48	753,712	23.65	27,195,952	0.08	100,233
Alsike clover	0.48	986,195	0.21	381,896	1.39	2,178,159
Brome grass, smooth	0.35	610,913	0.90	1,563,052	0.16	298,606
Timothy grass, other than cert	0.29	262,825	0.10	95,174	0.06	57,667
Brome grass, meadow	0.20	371,966	0.11	232,863	0.03	66,757
Creeping red fescue, cert	0.18	179,281	0.72	772,842	0.05	61,629
Fescue, nes	0.08	189,608	0.21	457,653	0.02	57,901
Wheatgrass, nes	0.07	142,172	0.63	1,648,605	0.32	753,150
Wheatgrass, crested	0.05	133,265	0.56	1,330,900	0.33	952,993
Kentucky blue grass	0.04	67,265	0	0	0.00	2,676
Clover, nes	0.03	48,175	0.02	42,354	0.04	102,574
Red clover, double cut	0.01	29,802	0	0	0.13	329,693
White clover	0.01	17,363	0	0	0.25	233,292
Orchard grass	0.01	9,945	0	0	0	0
Wild rye	-	0	0.07	89,746	0.48	693,785
Brome grass, nes		0	0.00	3,326	0	0

Red = exported out of 1 or 2 Provinces only. Crops ranked as per Manitoba by quantity

Note: StatCan Data shows the Province of Export, but the seed may not necessarily have been grown in the exporting province. EG: Much of BC's creeping red fescue crop is processed in Alberta, and is noted as such if exported (Exported out of Alberta)



## Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Trade by Country

3 countries continue to dominate Canadian grass and legume seed trade, with those being the USA, China, and the Netherlands. These 3 countries accounted for almost 85% of Canada's trade volume, with the USA accounting for over 60% itself. Only 4 other countries imported over 1 million lbs. of Canadian seed in 2019/20, with Germany importing 5.4 million lbs., Italy: 1.67 million lbs, Lithuania: 1.51 million lbs. and Denmark: 1.44 million lbs.

Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Country and Quantity (Millions of lbs):							
	2014-15	2015-16	2018-19	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	% of CDN Exports 2019/20
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>86.61</b>	<b>111.50</b>	<b>114.02</b>	<b>127.07</b>	<b>109.59</b>	<b>117.37</b>	
<b>USA</b>	<b>49.74</b>	<b>60.34</b>	<b>67.60</b>	<b>78.86</b>	<b>67.48</b>	<b>70.62</b>	<b>60.17%</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>11.47</b>	<b>12.01</b>	<b>16.34</b>	<b>17.74</b>	<b>16.12</b>	<b>17.49</b>	<b>14.90%</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>12.68</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>9.72</b>	<b>7.27</b>	<b>11.10</b>	<b>9.46%</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>6.99</b>	<b>5.09</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>4.48</b>	<b>5.39</b>	<b>4.59%</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>1.42%</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>1.22%</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>1.23</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>0.82%</b>
<b>Poland</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.72%</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.63%</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.61%</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.60%</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.11%</b>
<b>Total Above 12 Countries</b>	<b>81.11</b>	<b>106.15</b>	<b>109.56</b>	<b>120.32</b>	<b>102.45</b>	<b>111.78</b>	<b>95.24%</b>
<b>Rest of World (2019/20 = 19 countries)</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>4.46</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>4.76%</b>
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>86.61</b>	<b>111.50</b>	<b>114.02</b>	<b>127.07</b>	<b>109.59</b>	<b>117.37</b>	

Note: Lithuania imported 1.51 million lbs., and Belgium imported .83 million lbs. of Canadian Grass and Legume Seed in 2019/20. Data not available for earlier years.

With only a land border between Canada and the **USA**, American companies contract field production in Canada for delivery into the states, accounting for some of this trade. American imports from Canada are led by creeping red fescue (23.3 million lbs.), alfalfa seed (17.5 million lbs.), and perennial ryegrass (11.4 million lbs.). The mixed seed category (blends, other species, etc.) accounted for another 8.4 million lbs. of seed imports. 2019/20 saw the USA import 70.6 million lbs. of Canadian seed, up by 3 million lbs. from 2018/19 and almost 6 million lbs. above the previous 5 years average. 2019/20 USA imports from Canada brought \$102 million of value back to the Canadian grass and legume seed industry.



**Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports to the USA**  
by Species and Quantity (millions of lbs.) 2014/15 to 2019/20

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019-20	5 yr. Avg Q (14/15 -18/19)	Value (Mil. of \$) 2019/20	% of Total Canadian G/L seed exports 2019/20
<b>Total Canadian Exports to USA</b>	<b>49.73</b>	<b>60.33</b>	<b>67.59</b>	<b>78.85</b>	<b>67.47</b>	<b>70.61</b>	<b>64.79</b>	<b>102.69</b>	<b>60.2%</b>
Alfalfa, cert	5.94	9.24	8.31	12.93	10.87	7.65	9.46	17.36	51.7%
Alfalfa, o/t cert	6.42	9.25	7.52	14.79	11.85	9.91	9.97	19.06	55.4%
Red clover, double cut	0.29	0.53	0.38	0.50	0.25	0.21	0.39	0.46	100.0%
Red clover, nes	0.82	0.89	0.43	0.62	0.54	0.63	0.66	1.18	29.1%
Sweet clover	0.85	0.78	0.74	0.75	0.68	0.63	0.76	0.81	63.4%
Alsike clover	0.60	0.53	0.39	0.66	0.80	0.98	0.60	1.75	47.2%
White clover	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.05	0.15	0.08	0.18	39.2%
Clover, nes	0.17	0.22	0.15	0.04	0.04	0.11	0.12	0.25	100.0%
Creeping red fescue, cert	0.89	0.68	1.00	0.81	0.55	0.62	0.79	0.71	62.4%
Creeping red fescue, o/t cert	16.64	20.13	20.03	21.36	15.65	22.75	18.76	27.05	92.6%
Tall fescue	0.29	0.21	0.81	0.55	0.60	0.67	0.49	0.84	27.3%
Meadow fescue	0.30	0.50	0.51	0.69	0.49	0.45	0.50	0.70	43.7%
Fescue, nes	0.50	0.35	0.43	0.62	0.14	0.36	0.41	0.76	100.0%
Kentucky blue grass	0.14	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.17	0.04	0.13	0.07	26.4%
Rye grass, annual	0.41	0.21	0.37	1.19	2.37	2.79	0.91	1.77	44.7%
Rye grass, perennial	3.87	6.03	14.60	13.29	10.28	11.46	9.62	12.88	57.2%
Brome grass, meadow	0.40	0.46	0.59	0.29	0.20	0.34	0.39	0.66	80.4%
Brome grass, smooth	0.07	0.37	0.83	0.83	0.96	0.73	0.61	1.29	51.6%
Brome grass, nes	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	100.0%
Wheatgrass, crested	0.61	0.89	1.21	0.82	0.80	0.57	0.87	1.54	60.6%
Wheatgrass, nes	1.41	0.60	0.24	0.69	0.74	0.67	0.73	1.84	65.6%
Bent grass	0.56	-	0.22	0.01	-	-	0.16		
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.49	0.47	0.60	0.48	0.47	0.44	0.50	1.77	52.4%
Orchard grass	0.09	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.14	100.0%
Wild rye	0.10	0.05	0.26	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.05	3.7%
Seed of forage plants, nes	7.84	7.66	7.70	6.66	8.87	8.42	7.74	9.58	85.9%
<b>Total Canadian Exports to USA</b>	<b>49.73</b>	<b>60.33</b>	<b>67.59</b>	<b>78.85</b>	<b>67.47</b>	<b>70.61</b>	<b>64.79</b>	<b>102.69</b>	<b>60.2%</b>

Last column =2019/20 Value of Canadian exports to USA, CDA \$, nes = not elsewhere specified

Note: The USA does not have an import code for timothy seed (ee "Seeds of forage plants, nes")

**Chinese** imports of Canadian grass and legume seed account for almost 15% of total Canadian exports, by volume. Chinas' main Canadian grass import in 2019/20 was perennial ryegrass (6.94 million lbs.), with alfalfa seed (certified and common combined) accounting for another 6.2 million lbs. Imports of creeping red fescue (1.8 million lbs.) and tall fescue (1.1 million lbs.) were the only other Canadian seed imports over 1 million lbs. In total, China imported 18.8 million lbs. of seed in 2019/20. Perennial ryegrass imports were up by over 5 million lbs., while total alfalfa seed imports were down by ½ a million lbs. In total, China purchased \$25.22 million worth of Canadian grass and legume seed in 2019/20.

Canadian Exports to <b>China</b> , 2014/15 to 2019/20 by <b>Species and Volume</b> (mil. of lbs.)						Value (Mil. of \$)
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2019/20
<b>Total Canadian Exports to China</b>	<b>16.34</b>	<b>17.74</b>	<b>16.12</b>	<b>15.07</b>	<b>18.84</b>	<b>25.22</b>
Rye grass, perennial	4.97	6.14	7.94	1.88	6.94	8.68
Alfalfa, o/t cert	0.45	1.83	0.99	1.52	3.96	6.07
Alfalfa, cert	1.63	2.47	2.56	5.12	2.26	4.33
Creeping red fescue, o/t cert	1.19	0.56	-	0.00	1.83	1.35
Tall fescue	1.50	1.03	0.72	0.81	1.13	0.69
<b>Brome grass, smooth</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>1.18</b>
Wheatgrass, nes	0.52	0.34	0.03	0.06	0.44	0.87
Wild rye	1.83	1.88	0.91	2.01	0.37	0.52
Sweet clover	0.48	-	0.09	0.20	0.29	0.16
Red clover, nes	0.90	1.94	0.86	1.62	0.27	0.15
Wheatgrass, crested	0.14	0.19	0.09	0.12	0.24	0.58
<b>White clover</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.18</b>
Timothy grass, o/t cert	0.07	0.08	0.25	0.57	0.09	0.09
Rye grass, annual	0.44	0.55	1.16	0.61	0.07	0.13
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.03	0.00	0.09	0.19	0.05	
Red clover, double cut	-	0.11	-	0.00	0.00	
Alsike clover	0.04	-	-	0.00	0.00	
<b>Creeping red fescue, cert</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
Kentucky blue grass	0.04	0.22	-	0.00	0.00	
Brome grass, meadow	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	
Timothy grass, cert	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	
Seed of forage plants, nes	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	
Brome grass, nes				0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Canadian Exports to China</b>	<b>16.34</b>	<b>17.74</b>	<b>16.12</b>	<b>15.07</b>	<b>18.84</b>	<b>25.22</b>

Last column = 2019/20 Value of Canadian exports to China, CDA \$. nes = not elsewhere specified

2019/20 grass and legume seed trade saw the **Netherlands** import 11.1 million lbs, of Canadian seed, worth \$13.3 million. 3 species dominated Dutch imports, with those species being alfalfa (5.3 million lbs.), timothy seed (2.7 million lbs.) and perennial ryegrass (1.8 million lbs.)





Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports to the Netherlands by Species and Volume (mil. of lbs.): 2014/15 to 2019/20							Value (Mil. of \$)
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2019/20
<b>Total Canadian Exports to Netherlands</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>12.68</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>9.72</b>	<b>7.27</b>	<b>11.10</b>	<b>13.34</b>
Alfalfa - certified	1.73	4.03	1.84	2.65	2.62	2.61	4.20
Alfalfa -o/t certified	0.09	0.75	-	0.07	0.31	2.67	3.67
Clover, Red - double cut	-	0.33	-	0.00	-	-	-
Clover, Red - nes	0.02	0.32	0.14	-	-	0.07	0.04
Clover, Sweet	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.04	-	-
Clover, Alsike	0.16	0.48	-	0.18	0.04	-	-
Clover - white	0.13	0.16	0.11	-	-	-	-
Clover - nes	-	-	-	0.02	-	-	-
Fescue, Creeping red - cert	0.89	0.36	0.95	0.14	-	0.00	0.00
Fescue, tall	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.17	0.00	0.36	0.22
Fescue, meadow	0.56	1.40	1.83	1.46	0.21	0.33	0.20
Blue grass, Kentucky	-	0.14	-	-	-	-	-
Rye grass, annual	0.04	-	0.12	0.50	0.82	0.52	0.33
Rye grass, perennial	1.26	1.96	1.68	1.79	1.33	1.78	1.48
Brome grass, Meadow	-	-	0.01	-	0.06	-	-
Brome grass, smooth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheatgrass, nes	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bird's-foot trefoil	0.19	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.03	0.09	0.31
Orchard grass	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-
Timothy - certified	3.40	2.30	2.19	2.56	1.72	2.59	2.80
Timothy - o/t certified	0.00	0.04	0.10	0.03	-	0.08	0.09
Wild rye	-	0.18	0.02	0.02	0.10	-	0.00
Seeds of forage plants, nes	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Canadian Exports to Netherlands</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>12.68</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>9.72</b>	<b>7.27</b>	<b>11.10</b>	<b>13.34</b>

Last column = 2019/20 Value of Canadian exports to the Netherlands, CDA \$. nes = not elsewhere specified

### 2019/20 Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Species and Destination: Legumes

**Alfalfa** seed dominates the Canadian legume seed trade, both in terms of volume and number of importing countries. Over 32 million lbs. of alfalfa seed was exported in 2019/20, totaling \$61 million. The USA (17.56 million lbs.), China (5.06 million lbs.) and the Netherlands (4.12 million lbs.) led the way. No other country imported more than 1 million lbs. of Canadian alfalfa seed, although Argentina came close (910,000 lbs).

Although, by volume, more **red clover** (nes) seed was exported (2.17 million lbs.) than **alsike clover** seed (2.08 million lbs.), the value of the alsike clover (\$3.55 million) was worth \$1.5 million more than red clover (\$2.05 million). Germany imported the most red clover seed (790,000 lbs.), and was second in alsike seed purchases (560,000 lbs.). The USA ranked first and second in alsike and red clover seed imports respectively.

**Sweet clover** exports hit 1 million lbs. in 2019/20, with the USA importing 630,000 lbs.

Although the USA imported the most Canadian **birdsfoot trefoil**, 5 of the top 7 importing countries for Birdsfoot trefoil were from Europe, The USA imported 440,000 lbs., while 300,000 lbs. landed in the above 5 European countries.

2019/20 Canadian Legume Seed Exports by County and Species (quantity - Mil. of lbs., Value = Mil. \$ CDN)							
	Alfalfa: Cert. & Common	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$ (Mil. of)		Red Clover, nes	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$ (Mil. of)
USA	Alfalfa, cert.	7.65	17.36	Germany	Red Clover, nes	0.79	0.45
China	Alfalfa, cert.	2.04	3.83	USA	Red Clover, nes	0.63	1.18
Netherlands	Alfalfa, cert.	1.55	2.52	China	Red Clover, nes	0.16	0.09
Argentina	Alfalfa, cert.	0.91	1.72	Italy	Red Clover, nes	0.15	0.08
Denmark	Alfalfa, cert.	0.47	0.86	Netherlands	Red Clover, nes	0.07	0.04
Turkey	Alfalfa, cert.	0.38	0.49	UK	Red Clover, nes	0.00	0.00
Italy	Alfalfa, cert.	0.30	0.47	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>2.17</b>	<b>2.05</b>
Germany	Alfalfa, cert.	0.10	0.20		<b>Alsike Clover</b>	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$ (Mil. of)
USA	Alfalfa, o/t cert.	9.91	19.06	USA	Alsike Clover	0.98	1.75
China	Alfalfa, o/t cert.	3.02	4.60	Germany	Alsike Clover	0.56	0.89
Netherlands	Alfalfa, o/t cert.	2.57	3.50	Denmark	Alsike Clover	0.14	0.20
Turkey	Alfalfa, o/t cert.	0.19	0.30	Italy	Alsike Clover	0.10	0.19
Germany	Alfalfa, o/t cert.	0.16	0.23	France	Alsike Clover	0.05	0.12
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>32.67</b>	<b>60.88</b>	Poland	Alsike Clover	0.04	0.10
	<b>Sweet Clover</b>	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$ (Mil. of)	<b>Total Canada Exports</b>		<b>2.08</b>	<b>3.55</b>
USA	Sweet Clover	0.63	0.81		<b>Birdsfoot Trefoil</b>	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$ (Mil. of)
China	Sweet Clover	0.38	0.21	USA	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.44	1.77
Argentina	Sweet Clover	0.05	0.03	Netherlands	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.09	0.31
Italy	Sweet Clover	0.05	0.03	Denmark	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.06	0.20
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.01</b>	France	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.06	0.17
	<b>White Clover</b>	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$ (Mil. of)	China	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.05	0.23
China	White Clover	0.34	0.33	Germany	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.05	0.18
USA	White Clover	0.15	0.18	Italy	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.04	0.13
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>0.83</b>	<b>3.15</b>

### 2019/20 Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Species and Destination: Turf Grasses

Common **creeping red fescue** seed, by volume, continues to be Canada's largest exported turf grass seed species. 2019/20 saw 24.6 million total common creeping red fescue seed exports out of Canada, 22.75 million lbs. of the total ending up in the USA. The total value of Canadian creeping red fescue seed exports, certified and common, was \$29.45 million.

**Perennial ryegrass** seed exports out of Canada totaled 20 million lbs. in 2019/20, with 11.46 million lbs. landing in the USA, while another 5.84 million lbs. were exported to China. The Netherlands bought 2.14 million lbs. while Italy and Germany purchased 390,000 lbs. and 270,000 lbs. respectively. Total sales were at \$22.43 million.

2019/20 **annual ryegrass** seed exports bought \$4.29 million back into Canada, coming of 6.25 million lbs. of exports. 8 European countries imported 30,000 or more lbs. of annual ryegrass seed, led by the Netherlands (520,000 lbs.), France (470,000 lbs.) and Germany (340,000 lbs.). The USA, of course, led the way in imports with 2.8 million lbs.

**Tall fescue** continues to be grown, and exported, with 2.45 million lbs of seed in 2019/20 headed out of Canada. 1 million lbs. headed to China, while another 670,000 lbs. landed in the USA. Tall fescue exports accounted for \$1.93 million in sales.

2019/20 Canadian Turf Grass Seed Exports by County and Species (quantity - Mil. of lbs., Value = Mil. \$ CDN)							
	Creeping Red Fescue, cert./ o/t	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)		Ryegrass, Annual	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)
USA	Creeping Red Fescue, cert.	0.62	0.71	USA	Ryegrass, Annual	2.79	1.77
Germany	Creeping Red Fescue, cert.	0.38	0.34	Netherlands	Ryegrass, Annual	0.52	0.33
UK	Creeping Red Fescue, cert.	0.16	0.11	France	Ryegrass, Annual	0.47	0.35
Italy	Creeping Red Fescue, cert.	0.15	0.10	Germany	Ryegrass, Annual	0.34	0.22
Poland	Creeping Red Fescue, cert.	0.08	0.05	UK	Ryegrass, Annual	0.19	0.22
Netherlands	Creeping Red Fescue, cert.	0.00	0.00	Poland	Ryegrass, Annual	0.15	0.11
USA	Creeping Red Fescue, o/t cert.	22.75	27.05	Italy	Ryegrass, Annual	0.11	0.07
China	Creeping Red Fescue, o/t cert.	1.66	1.20	Turkey	Ryegrass, Annual	0.09	0.08
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>25.57</b>	<b>29.45</b>	China	Ryegrass, Annual	0.07	0.13
	Ryegrass, Perennial	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)	Denmark	Ryegrass, Annual	0.03	0.04
USA	Ryegrass, Perennial	11.46	12.88	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>6.25</b>	<b>4.29</b>
China	Ryegrass, Perennial	5.84	7.53		Tall Fescue	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)
Netherlands	Ryegrass, Perennial	2.14	1.82	China	Tall Fescue	1.01	0.61
Italy	Ryegrass, Perennial	0.39	0.38	USA	Tall Fescue	0.67	0.84
Germany	Ryegrass, Perennial	0.27	0.27	Netherlands	Tall Fescue	0.36	0.22
Poland	Ryegrass, Perennial	0.05	0.06	Germany	Tall Fescue	0.19	0.11
France	Ryegrass, Perennial	0.04	0.05	Italy	Tall Fescue	0.11	0.07
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>20.02</b>	<b>22.43</b>	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>2.45</b>	<b>1.93</b>

### 2019/20 Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Species and Destination: Forage Grasses

**Timothy seed** exports top Canada's forage grass seed exports again in 2019/20, with 7.94 million lbs. of seed exports, the majority of it being certified. Data shows the Netherlands importing 2.47 million lbs. of seed, with Germany importing another 2.45 million lbs. No other country shows imports of over 1 million lbs. However, the USA does NOT use an import/export code for timothy seed, therefore USA data is unavailable. Of the total timothy seed exports (7.84 million lbs.), certified seed accounted for 94.4% of this total! In 2019/20, the value of Canadian timothy seed exports was \$9.08 million.

**Seeds of forage plants**, not elsewhere specified (nes), saw exports in this category rise from 6.85 million lbs. (2018/19) to 9.56 million lbs. this past year. The trade category would include plant species not mentioned elsewhere and grass/legume seed mixtures. Trade in this seed group brought in \$11.6 million in sales.

**Smooth brome grass** seed exports were almost split evenly between the USA (730,000 lbs.) and China (610,000 lbs.). Total value of all smooth brome grass exported totaled \$2.48 million.

**Meadow brome grass** does not seem to be able to make export strides. After haves sales in the 600,000 lb. range the past few years, 2019/20 exports fell back to 420,000 lbs. this past year.



2019/20 saw both meadow fescue and wheatgrass seed (nes) export over 1 million lbs. of seed each, while crested wheatgrass saw exports at 940,000 lbs. These 3 crops brought in \$1.06 million, \$2.54 million, and \$2.42 million respectively.

2019/20 Canadian Forage Grass Seed Exports by County and Species (quantity - Mil. of lbs., Value = Mil. \$ CDN)							
	Timothy: cert./common	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)		Meadow Fescue	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)
Netherlands	Timothy, cert.	2.47	2.68	USA	Meadow Fescue	0.45	0.70
Germany	Timothy, cert.	1.45	1.74	Netherlands	Meadow Fescue	0.33	0.20
Denmark	Timothy, cert.	0.84	1.00	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>1.04</b>	<b>1.06</b>
UK	Timothy, cert.	0.40	0.55		Wheatgrass, nes	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)
Poland	Timothy, cert.	0.39	0.40	USA	Wheatgrass, nes	0.67	1.84
France	Timothy, cert.	0.18	0.20	China	Wheatgrass, nes	0.26	0.48
Italy	Timothy, cert.	0.14	0.14	Japan	Wheatgrass, nes	0.02	0.04
Japan	Timothy, cert.	0.06	0.09	Italy	Wheatgrass, nes	0.01	0.01
China	Timothy, o/t cert.	0.09	0.09	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>1.02</b>	<b>2.54</b>
Netherlands	Timothy, o/t cert.	0.08	0.09		Wheatgrass, Crested	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)
Germany	Timothy, o/t cert.	0.07	0.06	USA	Wheatgrass, Crested	0.57	1.54
USA	Timothy: cert./common	N/A	N/A	China	Wheatgrass, Crested	0.20	0.48
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>7.94</b>	<b>9.08</b>	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>0.94</b>	<b>2.42</b>
	Seeds of Forage Plants, nes	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)		Wild Rye	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)
USA	Seeds of Forage Plants, nes	8.42	9.58	China	Wild Rye	0.12	0.20
Japan	Seeds of Forage Plants, nes	0.00	0.01	Poland	Wild Rye	0.04	0.07
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>9.80</b>	<b>11.60</b>	USA	Wild Rye	0.02	0.05
	Bromegrass, Smooth	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)	Netherlands	Wild Rye	0.00	0.00
USA	Bromegrass, Smooth	0.73	1.29	<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.78</b>
China	Bromegrass, Smooth	0.61	1.05		Bromegrass, Meadow	lbs. (Mil. of)	\$(Mil. of)
Denmark	Bromegrass, Smooth	0.03	0.07	USA	Bromegrass, Meadow	0.34	0.66
<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>1.41</b>	<b>2.48</b>	Italy	Bromegrass, Meadow	0.01	0.01
<b>Note: USA does not use a code for timothy seed</b>				<b>Total CDN Exports</b>		<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.78</b>

### Summary:

Canadian grass and legume seed exports rebounded in 2019/20 from a slight decrease in exports the previous year. This Canadian agricultural sector provided over \$161 million in sales to the economy. Very strong production in previous years, resulting in surplus supplies, appears to be diminishing. Exports continue to move upwards. Many buyers still rely on "hand to mouth" buying, so processors and growers should be aware of the time element associated with such buying tactics. As long as growers remain in the industry, Canada's experience and reliability in producing high quality grass and legume seed can be maintained, and the long term outlook for all these crops should be good.

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