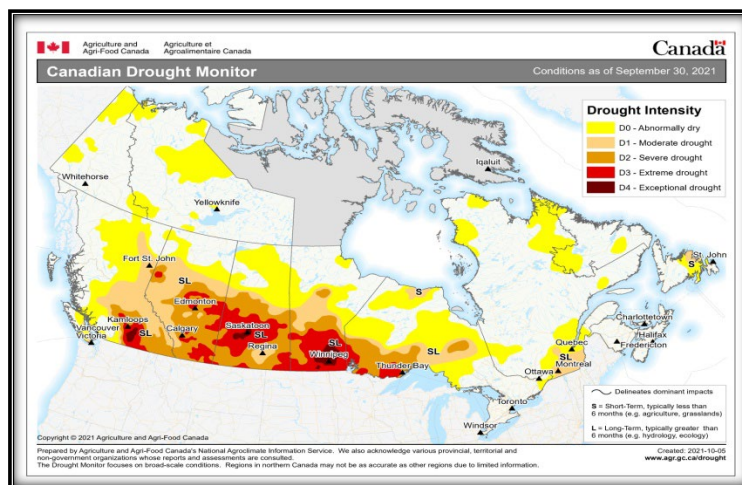


Canadian Grass and Legume Seed Data: 2021 Inspected Acres

Overview:

Canadian pedigreed grass and legume seed acres in 2021 continued to decline for the 5th year in a row, reaching the lowest inspected acres since at least 2007. 2021 total pedigreed inspected grass and legume seed acres were at 124,000 acres, down by 5,800 from 2020. However, with the severe drought across the prairies this past year, it will be interesting to see if supply will keep up with demand.

2021's inspected grass and legume seed acres were led by alfalfa seed (41,000 ac's), followed by timothy (29,900 ac), ryegrass (17,150 ac) and fescue (18,300 ac). No other crop had over 10,000 inspected acres.



Note: Due to Canada's Freedom of Information Act (FOIP), many plant types are not broken down to species level. The main Canadian grass/legume seed species applied for inspection includes:

- **Bromegrass:** primarily meadow bromegrass, smooth bromegrass or hybrid bromegrass
- **Fescues:** primarily creeping red fescue, tall fescue, or meadow fescue
- **Clovers:** primarily red clover, alsike clover, sweet clover, or white clover
- **Ryegrasses:** primarily perennial ryegrass or annual ryegrass
- **Wheat grasses:** primarily crested wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, northern wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, or intermediate wheatgrass
- This article focuses on **pedigreed seed production**, and does not dwell on common grass and legume seed production across Canada

CFIA: 2021 Acres Applied For Inspection - Crop by Province, Acres											Change	%	
Crop Kind	PEI	NS	NB	QUE	ONT	MB	SK	AB	BC	2021	2020	(+/-) Acres	change
Alfalfa						7,883	14,278	18,841	-	41,002	42,732	(1,730)	-4.05%
Birdsfoot Trefoil						2,221	170	-	-	2,391	2,247	144	6.41%
Bromegrass						387	2,362	3,384	157	6,290	7,206	(916)	-12.71%
Clover						254	2,376	1,463	-	4,093	4,330	(237)	-5.47%
Fescue						7,384	5,298	5,693	-	18,375	16,991	1,384	8.15%
Ryegrass						11,847	2,293	2,888	130	17,158	19,418	(2,260)	-11.64%
Timothy						8,471	6,620	12,631	2,135	29,857	29,816	41	0.14%
Wheatgrass						98	1,563	2,815	380	4,856	7,135	(2,279)	-31.94%
Total by Prov. - 2021						38,545	34,960	47,715	2,802	124,022	129,875	(5,853)	-4.51%
Total by Prov. - 2020						43,842	29,914	53,208	2,911	129,875	141,766	(11,891)	-8.39%
Total by Prov. - 2019						51,848	28,352	58,803	2,764	141,766	145,999	(4,233)	-2.90%

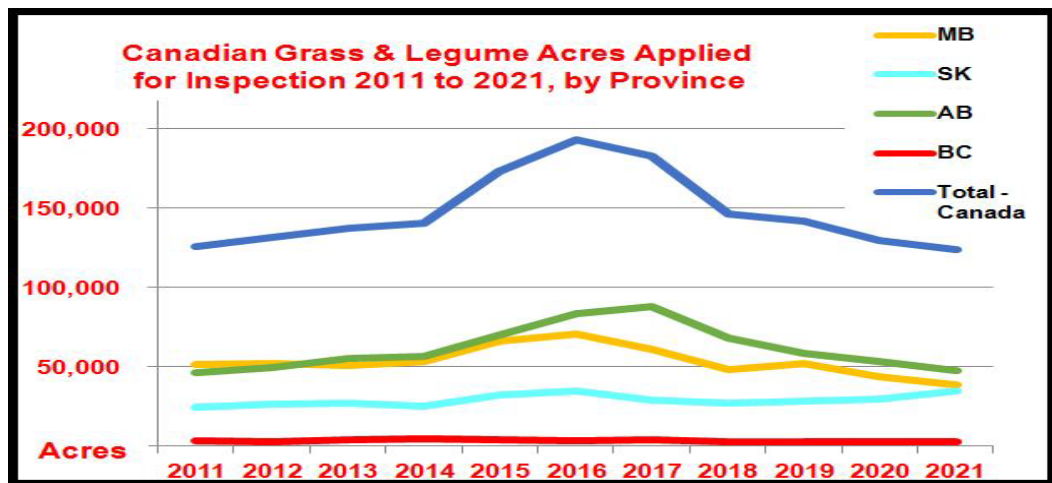
Inspected Acres by Province

Alberta, led by inspected acres of alfalfa, led all provinces in total inspected acres (47,700 ac), followed by Manitoba (38,500 ac) and Saskatchewan (35,000 ac). BC was the only other province growing pedigreed grass and legume seed (2,800 ac). No other province grew pedigreed grass and legume seed in 2021.

Alberta's pedigreed grass and legume seed acres are led by 18,841 alfalfa acres, located primarily in the Brooks AB area. Timothy seed, with the majority in the Peace River region of Alberta, occupied 12,631 acres. Fescue acres, mostly creeping red fescue, was inspected on 5,693 acres and found almost exclusively in the Peace River Region. A crop taking off in the province, perennial ryegrass, saw 2,890 acres applied for inspection. This is up by almost 1,100 acres (60.6 %) from last year. 2,362 acres of brome grass seed were inspected in Alberta in 2021. This led all other provinces combined. Clover acres were down by 700 (to 1,460 ac), while wheatgrass acres fell by over 2,200 acres to 2815. Overall, total Alberta inspected acres fell by 5,500 in 2021.

CFIA: Grass & Legume Acres Applied For Inspection: 2011 to 2021: Total Crops Inspected by Province					
	MB	SK	AB	BC	Total - Canada
2011	51,617	24,596	46,195	3,584	126,001
2012	52,246	26,389	49,759	3,021	131,441
2013	50,641	26,959	55,564	4,172	137,336
2014	53,517	25,274	56,641	4,838	140,270
2015	66,447	32,498	70,027	4,265	173,287
2016	70,684	34,578	83,731	3,707	192,751
2017	61,265	29,023	88,249	4,294	182,881
2018	48,066	27,457	67,872	2,604	145,999
2019	51,848	28,352	58,803	2,764	141,766
2020	43,842	29,914	53,208	2,911	129,875
2021	38,545	34,960	47,715	2,802	124,022
10 Yr, Avg (2011 to 2020)	55,017	28,504	63,005	3,616	150,161

After reaching a provincial high of over 70,000 acres in 2016, 2021 saw **Manitoba's** acres at 38,545. In 2016, Manitoba had acres of both ryegrass and timothy over 22,000. Last year's acres were 11,800 (ryegrass) and 8,400 (timothy) respectively. Fescue production, mainly tall fescue varieties, continued to climb, up for the 3rd consecutive year to 7,400 acres. Like ryegrass and timothy, Manitoba's pedigreed alfalfa seed acres also continued to fall. Following a high in acres in 2016 (15,750 ac), acres have fallen annually, with 2021 acres at 7,880. Manitoba continues to lead the country in pedigree birdsfoot trefoil production, with acres at 2,220. Inspected acres of clovers, brome grass and wheatgrasses were all under 400.



Saskatchewan's total inspected acres in 2021 increased by 5000, going from 29,900 (2020) to 34,960. 2021 saw alfalfa inspected acres rise by 1,700 (to 14,270 ac), and fescue acres rise by 2,800 acres to 5,300. Most other Saskatchewan grass and legume pedigreed crops remained at levels similar to 2020. 2021 saw timothy acres at 6,600, while brome grass, clover, and ryegrass all ranged around 2,300 acres. Pedigreed wheatgrass seed acres fell by 400 to 1,560 acres. Inspected acres of grass and legumes seed in Saskatchewan were at her highest level since 2008.

Inspected Acres by Crop Groups:

2021 Pedigreed Turf Grass Seed Acres:

2021 saw 35,500 acres of pedigreed turf grass seed production across Canada. These acres were 1,100 below the 10 year average and well below the 63,000 acres in 2006. Canadian turf grass seed production centers on perennial ryegrass, creeping red fescue and tall fescue. 2021 saw fescue acres (18,375 ac) overtaking ryegrass acres (17,158) on the prairies. This was due to an increase in tall fescue acres in Saskatchewan and perennial ryegrass acres in Alberta. Manitoba saw its ryegrass acres fall by 4,800. However, Manitoba's fescue acres rose by 800. Saskatchewan's ryegrass acres and fescue acres rose by 300 and 2,900 acres respectively. Alberta saw fescue acres fall by 2,000, while ryegrass acres rose by 32% (from 1,800 to 2,900).

2021 Pedigreed Forage Grass Seed acres:

Canadian pedigreed forage grass seed production is focused primarily on timothy (2021 = 29,850 ac), with the brome grasses (mainly smooth and meadow at 6,300 ac) and wheatgrasses (4,850 ac) following suit. Brome grass production is found mainly in Alberta (3,380) and Saskatchewan (2,360). Alberta has the majority of timothy acres (12,600), although Manitoba's (8,470) and Saskatchewan's (6,600) acres are substantial. 2021 Canadian timothy acres are still 4,700 below the 10 year average. 2021 saw wheatgrass acres drop by 2,280 (32%) to 4,850 acres, its lowest acreage level since 2013.



Timothy Seed Variety Trial, Beaverlodge AB

2021 Pedigreed Legume Seed Acres:

Canadian pedigreed alfalfa acres dominate the legume picture. Following huge acres and production in 2015 to 2017, followed by a substantial drop in prices, acres have fallen. 2021 saw 41,000 acres of pedigreed alfalfa in Canada, well below the 10 year average of 59,900. Acres have now fallen for the 4th consecutive year. Pedigreed clover and birdsfoot trefoil acres have remained steady the past couple years, with clover at 4,100 (10 year avg. = 4,580) and birdsfoot trefoil at 2,400 (10 year avg. = 3,900). Birdsfoot trefoil production is found almost exclusively in Manitoba (2,100 ac), while Saskatchewan (2,370 ac) and Alberta (1,460 ac) have the clover production (mainly red and alsike clovers).

Canadian Inspected Acres 2011 to 2021: Legume Seed				Canadian Inspected Acres 2011 to 2021: Grass Seed					
	Alfalfa	Clover	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Wheatgrass	Timothy	Bromegrass	Fescue	Ryegrass	Total Canada
2011	44,116	3,600	5,010	6,319	26,025	6,434	10,422	24,074	126,001
2012	47,456	3,886	7,315	5,290	33,012	5,138	10,875	18,469	131,441
2013	51,018	4,247	7,442	3,857	37,582	5,587	12,039	15,564	137,336
2014	56,319	2,494	3,910	4,959	41,271	5,372	10,230	15,714	140,269
2015	69,967	5,870	2,606	5,044	43,763	6,685	14,501	24,851	173,287
2016	81,260	6,106	2,107	6,376	42,246	9,872	19,398	25,386	192,751
2017	81,573	6,243	2,872	6,387	37,177	10,750	18,675	19,204	182,881
2018	69,650	4,596	2,337	6,146	26,284	7,425	13,457	16,104	145,999
2019	55,354	4,443	3,209	6,715	25,413	7,767	14,193	24,672	141,766
2020	42,732	4,330	2,247	7,135	29,816	7,206	16,991	19,418	129,875
2021	41,002	4,093	2,391	4,856	29,857	6,290	18,375	17,158	124,022
Avg. Ac's: 2011 to 2020	59,945	4,582	3,906	5,823	34,259	7,224	14,078	20,346	162,563

Summary:

2021 saw the continued drop in Canadian pedigreed grass and legume seed acres, and production probably fell as well, as the Canadian prairies suffered one of its worst droughts in recent memory. In addition to a potential drop in production due to the drought, demand for pedigreed seed in 2022 could be high, as many newly seeded fields in 2021 did not catch. Older fields were “droughted” out, requiring new seeding this upcoming year. As well, due to very high prices for traditional crops, less acres may be allocated for pedigreed grass and legume seed production in 2022.

However, with globalization of all agricultural sectors, the demand for Canadian certified seed production, both domestic and global, should continue, primarily in the form of contracted certified seed production going back to contracting companies. Although better management and more work is required, pedigreed production of grass and legume seed allows growers to continue to diversify their farm operations, and hopefully, continue to be profitable in the future.

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Beaverlodge Ab Canada