



March 18, 2003

Market Report

Spring shipping season has begun. The level of activity increased last week and has maintained momentum this week. Markets have remained relatively quiet due to the lack of new trades. At this point, everyone is waiting to determine spring demand and if re-orders take place in April and May.

Very little market changes for this report. Only Fawn, KY31 and VNS tall fescue has changed in price, increasing slightly due to the farmer's insistence on higher prices.

Choke

At a recent meeting in Oregon, the Orchardgrass choke issue took center stage. Choke is a disease that attacks the plant and inhibits it from pushing the seed head out of the column. It has been determined that choke is not spreading as fast as first thought and even a few fields have seen a decrease in the level of contamination. The next step is to determine what variables affect choke, such as weather, rotation, etc. Currently there are no management options for controlling choke.

Denim Kentucky Bluegrass

Another Kentucky bluegrass Columbia Seeds currently offers is Denim. Denim features improved stripe smut resistance, turf quality, winter color and traffic tolerance compared to other BVMG (Baron, Victa, Merit, Gnome) types of Kentucky Bluegrass. Denim is recommended for athletic fields, golf course roughs, sod blends, parks, home lawns and commercial areas.

Characteristics:

- Good Spring Green-Up
- Improved Summer Performance
- Improved Winter Color
- Improved Low-Maintenance Performance

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