



April 8, 2003

Market Report

Will the real spring weather please stand up?

Many parts of the country are still experiencing degrees of winter weather from snow storms to wet winter weather. According to the calendar and daylight savings time, spring should have sprung. Reports are that the business is there, we just need the weather to cooperate.

Once again there was a flurry of activity on KY31 and VNS tall fescue moving the market prices up \$3-5/cwt. Creeping red fescue has softened a little by \$1-2/cwt. Orchardgrass softened for a couple of weeks and now has returned to previous levels. Perennial ryegrass continues to strengthen as company and grower inventories are depleted.

Let's hope the weather improves on what is remaining of spring time.

Crop Report

The PNW's wet March brought us to with 0.88" of the normal rain fall for the season. There is some concern with the excessive growth on the many fields which could reduce crop yields this summer. A number of third year perennial ryegrass fields are average to poor in appearance at this time. In driving around the valley, a few of the older stands of tall fescue also look marginal due to uneven growth and weeds.

Precious Perennial Ryegrass

Columbia Seeds' newest variety of perennial ryegrass is Precious Perennial Ryegrass. Precious, experimental designation ML-99, was developed by Radix Research. Precious was screened for improved density, texture and summer performance. In current private trials, it has been outperforming many leading varieties including Mach 1 and Pizzazz. Precious is scheduled for the 2004 Perennial Ryegrass NTEP trials.

- Fine Texture
- Brilliant Dark Green Color
- Improved Turf Density
- Improved Summer Performance
- Good Disease Resistance

Precious Perennial Ryegrass will be available for commercial sale in the fall of 2003.

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