



May 27, 2003

Market Report

The holiday weekend plus wet weather across much of the East has led to the settling of the markets. A few shipments are leaving the PNW as customers clean-up their spring contracts. Canadian quality perennial ryegrass was actively traded last week starting in the mid 50's for the better quality lots. The rest of the traded markets remain quiet at this time.

The summer travel and convention season is beginning. We look forward to seeing many of you in the next few months before we get busy with fall. However, with the late spring, Columbia Seeds has the product to meet your prompt needs.

Oregon Crop & Weather Report

What a difference a month makes. The weather has turned sunny and warm. Growers are busy catching up on spot spraying, fertilizing and rust control while attempting to spring plant tall and fine fescue. The fescue crops, both tall and fine, look thin and weedy. Many believe the cause is from the dry summer and fall last year which inhibited plant establishment. Growers have become extremely cautious on predicting the total yield potential in response to the fescue field conditions. Perennial ryegrasses are currently heading out and the crop looks fine at this point. Walking fields last week, it is evident that *Poa annua* control has been very spotty in both the North and South Valley that could lead to contamination issues as the crop is harvested, cleaned and tested.

With reduced carryover on all species, the fall shipping season could be real interesting if yields are reduced or the quality is an issue which could lead to shipping delays, particularly for those customers who have not booked their seed early.

Tahoe Tall Fescue

A new tall fescue from Columbia Seeds available fall 2003. Experimental designation, MA-157, was developed by Radix Research for improved summer activity and adapted for the Transitional Zones and into the Northern climates. Tahoe is a dark green, fine textured plant with semi-dwarf characteristics. It has shown good disease resistance, particularly to brown patch, and aggressive tillering. In the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, Tahoe was highly rated for drought tolerance, summer and fall density, and wear tolerance.

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