



June 20, 2003

Oregon Crop & Weather Report

Harvest is beginning on some of the early Kentucky bluegrass varieties in Eastern Washington. Here in the valley we are still a few weeks away from swathing and harvest. The biggest question, this time of year, is how does the crop look?

Looking back over the past year, Mother Nature provided wide swings in weather. The PNW started out very dry last summer and fall. Moisture held off until February and then it rained. The deficit was made up plus more through April. Finally this spring it turned back to dry and warm and has stayed that way until now.

Perennial Ryegrass: In the PNW, the crop looks average. We are starting to see signs of stress due to the lack of moisture late this spring. In addition, a few fall planted fields will provide lower quality product due to weeds. With inventory levels at the lowest level in five years, reduced acres and just an average crop coming in prices are expected to remain strong for the next year.

Tall Fescue: Reports out of Missouri is that the crop is average to above average provided the weather cooperates during harvest. The fescue crops are affected more by a drier fall than other species. It has been estimated that yields will be down 10-15% on reduced acres. However, with the amount of carryover prices should remain stable to slightly increasing depending on demand.

Fine Fescues: The PNW crop, like tall fescue, looks lighter than average on reduced acres. The market should be increasing but with the Canadian creeping red fescue in the mid-40's little price change is expected.

Annual Ryegrass: The crop looks below average. The wet spring either washed the fertilizer away or prevented the grower from timely applications. With the low prices, growers are beginning to store seed as oppose to selling at these levels. The crop is estimated to be 10-15% below average and with growers holding inventory, fall pricing is starting to strengthen.

Orchardgrass: Once again reduced acres and expected less than average yields. However, with a fair amount of inventory around prices have decreased and will stay at these levels until demand returns.

Market Report:

Perennial ryegrass pricing has increased again reflecting the anticipated fall pricing. Summer supplies are very low so call for prompt availability. We look forward to seeing many of you this summer and also look forward to working with you this fall.

Columbia Seeds LLC
800 NW Starker Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97330
tpape@columbiaseeds.com

Toll Free: 888.681.7333
Phone: 541.757.1468
Fax: 541.757.1479
sharer@columbiaseeds.com