



August 17, 2003

### **Crop**

Perennial ryegrass will probably go on the books as one of the poorest yielding crops in the past forty years. Probably as close to a crop failure ever experienced in the modern history of perennial ryegrass production. Average yields were 600 lbs. to the acre for Linn County with the rest of the valley reporting about the same. Even irrigated acres are reported to be about ½ of normal. The cause of this was the extreme heat we had in early June coupled with a drier than normal late spring.

Other species like tall and fine fescue were also adversely affected but not to the extent of perennial ryegrass. Both are earlier maturing, avoiding the extreme damage done by the heat and dry conditions.

The report out of Europe is they did not fair much better with their current weather problems. Yields on all species are down significantly. This should result in their need to purchase seed outside the EU for their seed needs.

The Canadian perennial ryegrass crop is also poor while it is too early to accurately predict the Creeping Red Fescue crop. We should know more in a couple of weeks. New Zealand's production was fine, but will hold most of the production for their own needs.

### **Market**

Perennial Ryegrass: Until more of the crop is cleaned, many companies have stopped quoting or taking new business. With the shortage in product and low yields, growers have been reluctant to offer VNS material out for sale. This has resulted in significantly increased market prices if you are able to find the seed.

Annual Ryegrass: The annual crop was also very poor and carryover was down. Prices are up and are expected to stay up unless fall demand is less than anticipated.

Tall Fescue: Market prices are stable at this time. With reduced yields on less acres look for the market price to increase after the fall shipping season.

Fine Fescues: Market prices have fluctuated recently depending on the outlook of the Canadian creeping red fescue crop. Current prices are down from their high of \$52/cwt. for spring shipment.

Kentucky Bluegrass: Market prices currently remain stable.

Shipping season is in full swing and so are the markets. To stay abreast of price changes and availability contact Tom or me. Have a great fall.

Columbia Seeds LLC  
800 NW Starker Avenue  
Corvallis, Oregon 97330  
[tpape@columbiaseeds.com](mailto:tpape@columbiaseeds.com)

Toll Free: 888.681.7333  
Phone: 541.757.1468  
Fax: 541.757.1479  
[sharer@columbiaseeds.com](mailto:sharer@columbiaseeds.com)