

Special Edition - 1st Quarter Assessment Reports

The state of Oregon has commissions for a number of agricultural crops, including grasses. The following are highlights from selected commission reports and a few observations. We hope it is helpful for your future planning. (K= thousands of lbs.; M=millions of lbs)

Orchardgrass: The '05 July-Sept. quarter showed assessments over 4.9 million lbs. This is considerably higher than last year's same quarter figures of ~4 million and strongest in at least 6 years.

Average numbers for the remaining three quarters of the crop year are ~11 million lbs. This year's yields were generally poor; bad enough to cause some to plow out their fields.

Orchardgrass Assessments - July-Sept. (1st Quarter)					
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
4.6M lbs.	4.8M lbs.	4.5M lbs.	3.7M lbs.	4.0M lbs.	4.9M lbs.

Tall fescue: Rising prices did not slow the turf-type tall fescue train down at all. Following a record-breaking 181 million lbs assessed from July '04-June '05, this first crop quarter (Jul-Sept. '05) sets a new record for the past 7 years. Low distributor-level inventories and a short KY31 crop helped spur movement.

Turf-type Tall Fescue Assessments - July-Sept. (1st Quarter)						
1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
47.8M lbs	39.3M lbs	39.5M lbs	45.5M lbs	32.6M lbs	42.5M lbs	52.5M lbs

Ryegrass: The '05 July-Sept. quarter for Oregon perennial ryegrass assessments was the highest in at least 7 years. Gulf and annual assessments were down 13% from the last 7-year average, due to inclement weather in the Southeast. We may expect to see next quarter up, as many report an excellent October.

Forage perennial ryegrass numbers were down from 3-4 million in previous years' 1st quarters to only 1.2 million pounds.

Ryegrass Assessments - July-Sept. (1st Quarter)							
Fine Fescue Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Turf Perennial	69.5M lbs	52.1M lbs	61.9M lbs	72.4M lbs	66.9M lbs	76.5M lbs	79.0M lbs
Forage Perennial	3.3M lbs	4.5M lbs	4.1M lbs	3.8M lbs	3.5M lbs	3.1M lbs	1.2M lbs
Gulf & Annual	142M lbs	124M lbs	131M lbs	123M lbs	135M lbs	135M lbs	113M lbs

Fine Fescue: Numbers for the '05 July-Sept. quarter for Oregon Chewings and creeping red fescues are up significantly from last year's same quarter and above average

for the past six years. In spite of very low priced Canadian creeper, Oregon produced creepers, which are mostly sold as proprietaries are up the highest they have been in at least six years.

Fine Fescue Assessments - July-Sept. (1st Quarter)						
Fine Fescue Type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Chewings	2.1M lbs	1.5M lbs	2.0M lbs	3.0M lbs	2.2M lbs	2.0M lbs
Creeping Red	1.9M lbs	2.1M lbs	1.7M lbs	2.2M lbs	1.5M lbs	2.3M lbs

Clover: Quite opposite of orchardgrass, the '05 July-Sept. assessments were the lowest in at least 5 years, especially for arrowleaf and crimson. Red and white clovers numbers did not significantly deviate from "average" numbers.

Clover Assessments - July-Sept. (1st Quarter)					
Clover Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Arrowleaf	339K lbs	478K lbs	339K lbs	123K lbs	57K lbs
Crimson	1.72M lbs	1.28M lbs	3.45M lbs	2.69M lbs	0.90M lbs