



Crop/Market Watch

The Willamette Valley is just about to enter into full-blown grass seed harvesting. This year, initial cutting activity has been delayed due the extended cool weather. Therefore, as of this report, very few fields have been windrowed, although the weekend's hot weather should now speed up the process. So far, some of the earlier maturing tall fescues, as well as some annual ryegrass fields have been the only crops cut.

Overall, the seed crops look, and we are expecting no less than average yields. Regarding acreage, many of you already know that clover acres are in short supply. Perennial ryegrass acres are down too, although carryover is significant. Annual ryegrass acres about normal. Tall fescue acres are up and orchardgrass acres are about the same.

While the domestic market struggled this spring, export sales have been excellent and expected to continue to be strong for this next crop year. So what will all this mean on the price side of things? When all this is coupled with the above with strong input costs and continued alternative crop options for Willamette growers, it just might mean that the normal pricing models - basic supply and demand pricing may not hold true.

A side of bluegrass, please

A little over a year ago we announced a new product line called **TLC Tall Fescue Blend**. While it is still very early in the life of a new product, we can say that overall acceptance and interest in **TLC** has been very good. We are now pleased to announce a companion line called **TLC Plus Tall Fescue-Bluegrass Mixture**. **TLC Plus** holds the same high standards of **TLC**, requiring all mixtures to contain **at least 25% of Titan Ltd.**, while offering the inclusion of compatible Kentucky bluegrass varieties selected to suit each customer's marketplace and applications.

Increased fertilizer cost, the need to look at lower maintenance grasses, and the overall improved turf quality of today's tall fescues are some of the factors that continue to generate greater usage of tall fescue and tall fescue dominated mixtures. We expect this trend to continue and will continue to look for ways to support the marketplace. **TLC Plus Tall Fescue-Bluegrass Mixture** will be available in 25 and 50 lbs polywoven bags. Look for more information later this summer at www.TLCFescue.com.



Varieties Score BIG in Texas Forage Trials

The folks in Texas recently released their annual ryegrass report for the 2007-08 growing season. We were once again very pleased with the results. As you can see from the table below, Smith Seed's newest varieties, **Attain**, **Big Boss**, **Verdure** and **Ed** continue to out-yield many other very good varieties. If you are looking to add a proprietary annual into your program, these would be excellent choices. More data from throughout the country is available at SmithSeed.com.

Texas Annual Ryegrass Forage Variety Trials 2004-2008 results (in lbs DM/A)			
	Overton	Beaumont	
Variety	3-yr mean	3-yr mean	Combined Total
TXR2006-T22	9365	5819	15184
Tetrapro	8968	6061	15029
Attain	8997	5933	14930
Big Boss	9045	5597	14642
TAMTBO	9375	4882	14257
Jumbo	8935	5178	14113
Prine	8798	5124	13922
Verdure	8198	5620	13818
Maximus	8449	5337	13786
Diamond T	8083	5595	13678
Dynagain	8379	5241	13620
Ed	8798	4732	13530
ME 4	9158	4354	13512
Tam 90	8379	5037	13416
ME 94	8573	4619	13192
Flying A	7811	5071	12882
WD-40	7360	5275	12635
TXR2004-OP	8354	4128	12482
Jackson	7880	4576	12456
Gulf	7920	4452	12372
Shiwasuaoba	7343	4644	11987