

Bargains Hard to Find

This is the time of year where it is common for bargain hunters to search for deals on off-grade lots of seed as well as capitalize on off-season quiet time when historically growers and seed companies may want to move some inventory at reduced margins. The best deals seem to be when there are multiple years of carryover and a prior year of new plantings. The new planting inevitably produces a certain percentage of "field-run" mixtures. This year, however, does not appear to be one of those years. With minimal new plantings in 2010, good movement of seed this past fall, high export prices, improved outlook for future usage, and almost no carryover of off-quality material, the bargains may be much more difficult to find. So if you are in the bargain hunting mode, be prepared to pay more for those bargains. Also, be ready to pull the trigger on an "in-hand" offer, because it may not be there if you delay your decision.

Crop & Weed-Free Seed Production: How Hard Can It Really Be?

While we all want to produce and sell the cleanest and best seed, a recent orchardgrass test we received illustrates the REAL challenges grass seed growers face. As shown to the right, this lot contains **seven** common weeds, **seven** noxious weeds and **three** other crop species. Thankfully, such a test is very uncommon, but it is a good reminder that all of those weeds and other crops are very happy to make their home in the Willamette Valley and are not particularly prejudiced as to which farmer or which crop they inhabit. It also gives us a snapshot of why some crops are becoming increasingly more difficult to grow. Finally, it sure makes us more appreciative of crop and weed free seed!

OTHER CROP SEED:		# Per Lb.
4.17% Ryegrass	(Lolium spp.)	
Bentgrass	(Agrostis spp.)	1147
Alsike clover	(Trifolium hybridum)	143

All STATES NOXIOUS WEED SEED		# Per Lb.
Except Hawaii And Undesirable Grass Seeds		
12	Giant foxtail (Setaria faberi)	180
11	Large crabgrass (Digitaria sanguinalis)	165
4	Buckhorn plantain (Plantago lanceolata)	60
3	Annual bluegrass (Poa annua)	45
1	Dogfennel (Anthemis cotula)	15
1	Quackgrass (Elymus repens)	15
1	Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)	15

WEED SEED:		# Per Lb.
Rattail fescue	(Vulpia myuros)	430
Virginia pepperweed	(Lepidium virginicum)	287
Annual sowthistle	(Sonchus oleraceus)	287
Spiny sowthistle	(Sonchus asper)	143
Spotted cat's-ear	(Hypochaeris radicata)	143
Hedge mustard	(Sisymbrium officinale)	143
Purslane speedwell	(Veronica peregrina)	143

Great Reasons for Growing Clover

Reason #7 - Reduced Animal Toxicities "Clovers can play an important role in offsetting various livestock disorders caused by forage grasses. In a recent survey in two southern states, 'growing legumes with tall fescue' was found to be the number one strategy used by beef cow-calf producers to cope with the endophyte of tall fescue. Grass tetany is another animal disorder reduced or eliminated by the presence of clovers in animals' diets."

- From "Ten Great Reasons for Growing Clover" www.aces.edu/dept/forages/clover.html

