

July 8, 2013

Harvest and Heat Waves

Crop 2013 harvest is well underway, thanks to the warm, dry spring and early summer heat. Last year Oregon didn't have a 90 degree day until August and this year we have already had six days north of 90 with six more to come according to the ten day forecast. Grass seed crops are coming in earlier and faster than normal as early ripening occurs across most turf and forage species. The combines have been hard at work in the Annual Ryegrass and Forage Tall Fescue fields. Turf Type Tall Fescues are swathed and on the ground drying. Perennial Ryegrasses are still standing but ripening fast. Normally there is a break between tall fescue and perennial but not this year. An old adage in the Valley is, "An early crop is a light crop." We will know more about Crop 13 very shortly.



Our bentgrass production appears to be in excellent shape. Increased acreage and healthy looking fields should provide adequate supplies of 007, Tye and SR 1150. Currently the crop timing is not as early as some of the other species so we think mid-September for new crop seed ready to ship.

One thing we do know is that the prices are up or stable on nearly every forage and turf commodity. Short carryover inventories, reduced production acreage and strong demand are the drivers. This is true for both common and proprietary varieties. The lone exception is K-31, where a larger than anticipated crop has driven the price down some 30 cents per pound in Missouri.

Our new crop pricing is attached. While the quantity of the crop appears average, the quality is forecast to have more contaminants this year. Despite a dry year with optimum spraying conditions there are more fields with issues than in previous years.

With perennial ryegrass prices up for the year we are seeing more interest in the Intermediate Ryegrasses, as well as the Turf-Type Annuals. A new variety – **TRANSFIX Intermediate Ryegrass** – was introduced last year and is in full commercial production this year. Look for an "Ideas in Play" about this terrific new transitional option later this week.

The months of July, August and September are challenging for you, your customers, and for us, your supplier. This harvest will be a classic just-in-time event, particularly with carry-over inventories so low. Organize your orders early and communicate your needs to your Seed Research of Oregon sales person soon.

We know it will be crazy, just not sure exactly how. Our plan is to manage the challenges and exceed your expectations.