

July 15, 2014

Harvest and Hot Weather!

Farm machinery is in high gear in Oregon as the hot days quicken the maturation process. Annual Ryegrass and Forage Tall Fescue samples are hitting the lab with regularity. Several Fine Fescues have entered the Seed Certification Lab. Turf Tall Fescue harvest is underway, with some fields combined and on the way to the cleaner. Perennial Ryegrass is a week or two away, slightly ahead of schedule. Even Bentgrasses are maturing ahead of schedule.

The old adage that “an early crop is a light crop” will be tested once again this year. The 15 day forecast calls for at least 10 days of above 90-degree weather. No rain is forecast at this time, with nothing to slow down the process.



Availability of key varieties should be good once the crop gets here. Timing of new crop follows this sequence: Annual Ryegrass, Forage Tall Fescue, Orchardgrass, Turf Tall Fescue, Fine Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass (Eastern OR/WA), Perennial Ryegrass and, last but not least, Creeping Bentgrass.

It is always a challenge to get certified Perennial Ryegrass into the market by the last weeks of August. Testing requirements add two to three weeks to the Certified Tag, and the same is true of Creeping Bentgrass. Our Creeping Bentgrasses (007 & Tyee) should be available by early September.

Cleaners and testing labs will be inundated as most of the industry requires new crop seed of nearly every species. Transportation forecast is similar to last year in that trucks will be tight and once we get rolling, rail service will have capacity issues.

Placing orders early will aid in getting seed blended and shipped in time for fall markets.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to a successful fall.