



OREGON GRASS SEED FORECAST

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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OREGON GRASS SEED ACRES DECREASE

Growers of Oregon annual ryegrass seed indicated that acres available for harvest in 2015 will decrease 5 percent from 2014 at 125,000 acres. The number of acres of perennial ryegrass available for harvest in 2015 is estimated to be 109,000 acres, a 2 percent increase from 2014. Acreage totals for 2014 were revised from preliminary intentions based on 2015 survey data, for all grass seed types.

Growers of Oregon tall fescue acreage indicate an increase of 1 percent in total acreage from 2014. The number of acres of turf-type tall fescue is expected to be up 2 percent and is estimated at 125,000 acres, while forage-type tall fescue growers indicate no change from last year, at 16,000 acres. Acres of K-31 and other types of tall fescue are expected to be down 8 percent from 2014 and are estimated at 11,000 acres.

Overall crop conditions were reported to be fair to good. However, weather and pests continue to impact growing conditions in some areas. Dry fall weather hampered some older grass fields, while mild winter weather has been good for the crop. Growers continue to combat losses from slugs, cut worms, mice and voles.

USDA-NASS has now made three consecutive grass seed forecast estimates in Oregon, breaking the gap of data history available since the 1970's. The 2015 survey resulted in responses from 81 percent of those contacted. Oregon State University has discontinued annual estimates of grass seed acreage and production, and was the only public source of information available prior to 2013.

This report wouldn't be possible without the support and cooperation of the growers providing information and from the organizations that funded the survey. Special thanks go to the Oregon Ryegrass Commission, Oregon Tall Fescue Commission, and the Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association for support of the survey.

Type of Seed	Acres Harvested in 2014	Acres Available for Harvest in 2015
Ryegrass Seed - Annual	132,000	125,000
Ryegrass Seed - Perennial	107,000	109,000
Tall Fescue Seed - Turf Type	122,000	125,000
Tall Fescue Seed - Forage Type	16,000	16,000
Tall Fescue Seed - K-31 & Other	12,000	11,000