



OREGON GRASS SEED FORECAST

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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OREGON GRASS SEED ACRES DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM 2016

Growers of Oregon annual ryegrass seed indicated that acres available for harvest in 2017 will increase by 1 percent from 2016 to 119,000 acres. The number of acres of perennial ryegrass available for harvest in 2017 is estimated to be 75,000 acres, down 14 percent from 2016. Acreage totals for 2016 were revised from preliminary intentions based on 2017 survey data, for all grass seed types.

Growers of Oregon tall fescue acreage indicated a decrease in total acreage from 2016. The number of acres of turf-type tall fescue is down by 8 percent, while forage-type tall fescue is up by 6 percent from last year. Acres of K-31 and other types of tall fescue are expected to be up slightly from 2016 and are estimated at 9,000 acres.

Grass seed growers reported that wet weather conditions during the fall delayed new plantings and some fields did not get planted at all. Some growers in Washington County indicated that regrowth for established grass fields was slowed and some newly planted fields froze due to recent freezing winter weather. Crop damage was reported due to high pressure from slugs, winter cut worms, geese, mice, and weather. This spring will have adequate moisture given the good snow pack, a welcome break from the dry weather from last year.

The 2017 survey resulted in responses from 74 percent of those contacted. 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 Growers Seed Commission, Oregon Tall Fescue Commission, Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association, and Oregon Seed Association for support of the survey.

Type of Seed	Acres Harvested in 2016	Acres Available for Harvest in 2017
Ryegrass Seed - Annual	118,000	119,000
Ryegrass Seed - Perennial	87,000	75,000
Tall Fescue Seed - Turf Type	101,000	93,000
Tall Fescue Seed - Forage Type	18,000	19,000
Tall Fescue Seed - K-31 & Other	8,000	9,000