



2014 Harvest Update

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By Glenn Jacklin

BLUEGRASS: Proprietary bluegrass 2014 crop was significantly down from earlier projections, with most areas seeing anywhere from 15-30% reductions in yields from crop estimates and off of average. Why? Most likely heat during pollination caused a short pollen period, that coupled with a sub-zero cold snap with no snow cover in January hurting the plant. The seed heads were visually there for a good crop, so all indicators would point to poor pollination period and poor seed fill from heat.

Quality continues to be a challenge in the production areas of Washington where burning is no longer an accepted cultural practice. This has led to more issues with *Poa annua* and Alkaligrass and also a new comer to the list of problem other grasses that we battle, Rattail Fescue.

Look for high-end elite bluegrass to continue to be in short supply through the next selling season. Common Kentucky bluegrass and low-end proprietaries in the dryland production areas had average yields, however, acreage is still very low from historical numbers, so look for supplies to somewhat tight.

RYEGRASS: Perennial ryegrass is coming in about average, however supplies are very tight as carryover was near zero coming in to new crop. Cleaners are busy trying to get product into the pipeline as fast as they can. Quality has been spotty, with cleaners having to reclean more than normal to get *Poa* out. We look for this specie to continue to be very tight on into the winter and spring.

TALL FESCUE: Yields are coming in average to slightly above average. Quality is looks good and inventories are stable and seed available. Consumption of tall fescue has increased due to the price point of turf type tall fescue versus other species that are in short supply. Look for pricing to remain firm and supplies to be in line with demand.

FINE FESCUES: Yields were spotty and below normal, good quality fine leafs will continue to be hard to fine, especially hard and sheep's. Look for prices to remain strong and possibly increase down the road.

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BENTGRASS: Above average consumption last spring to repair winter damaged fairways has brought inventories to lower than projected numbers with few acres in the ground for harvest 2014. This will certainly put a pinch on supplies until we roll into 2015 crop when newly planted acres will come on line. Look for tight supplies the next 12 month cycle on into fall 2015. [↗](#)

We wanted to make sure you are updated with this latest harvest information and expected shortages so you can plan accordingly.

Please make sure to get your requests in early for your needs through September/October 2015 and we will do our best to get your request covered.