



OREGON GRASS SEED FORECAST

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Posted online February 13, 2018

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OREGON GRASS SEED ACRES UP 4 PERCENT FROM 2017

Total acreage of Oregon grown Ryegrass and Tall Fescue increased to 332,000 acres for harvest in 2018, from 320,000 acres harvested in 2017. Growers of annual ryegrass seed indicated that acres available for harvest in 2018 will increase by 4 percent from 2017 to 123,000 acres. The number of acres of perennial ryegrass available for harvest in 2018 is estimated to be 72,000 acres, down 6 percent from 2017. Acreage totals for 2017 were revised from preliminary intentions based on 2018 survey data for all grass seed types.

Growers of Oregon tall fescue acreage indicated an increase in total acreage from 2017. The number of acres of turf-type tall fescue is up 9 percent, while forage-type tall fescue is up 5 percent from last year. Acres of K-31 and other types of tall fescue are also up from 2017 and are estimated at 12,000 acres.

Growers reported that overall yields were down for the 2017 crop due to a very wet spring, which made it hard to control weeds and affected pollination. Grass seed growers indicated that new stands for 2018 had a slow start to get established. This was due to wet fall conditions and colder winter conditions, which delayed new plantings. Good crop conditions were reported coming into spring for both rye and fescue grasses. Pressure from slugs, winter cut worms, geese, and mice were reported.

The 2018 survey resulted in responses from 75 percent of the selected sample. 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, and the Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association for support of the survey.

Type of Seed	Acres Harvested in 2017	Acres Available for Harvest in 2018
Ryegrass Seed - Annual	118,000	123,000
Ryegrass Seed - Perennial	77,000	72,000
Tall Fescue Seed - Turf Type	96,000	105,000
Tall Fescue Seed - Forage Type	19,000	20,000
Tall Fescue Seed - K-31 & Other	10,000	12,000