

1986 seed crop gets mixed reviews

■ The seed harvest is progressing with alacrity in the Willamette Valley region of western Oregon, where 60 percent of the world's grass seed is grown, and also in western Washington, and northern Idaho. The bottom line on seed availability for late 1986 and early 1987: it's a guessing game until the crop is harvested and cleaned. After harvests are completed this month, seed availability (and price) should be more clear.

Here's a smattering of opinions from seed people about this year's crop:

Harry Stalford, International Seed: "The crop looks pretty good. If we get good weather the next three weeks (the last week of June and first two of July) we'll be in good shape."

Bill Rose, Turf-Seed: "The ryes are off in production due to a dry spring, perhaps 20 percent off. The tall fescues weren't hurt as bad, maybe 10 percent off. Bluegrass look like a good crop. The bentgrass looks excellent, as good as I've ever seen them. The fine fescues are drastically off, maybe 40 percent."

Mike McCarthy, E.F. Burlingham & Sons: "The fine fescues may be a short crop, the bluegrasses may be short, the ryes are yet to be seen, and the tall fescues look moderately good though some say it may be a little short."

Doyle Jacklin, Jacklin Seed (the company's seed is grown in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington): "The Kentucky blue proprietaries look good on irrigated land. The common Kentucky blue looks below normal because we've had some hot days south of here (Post Falls, Idaho). The perennial ryegrasses in the Willamette Valley look excellent. Fine fescues look poor."

Jerry Pepin, Pickseed West: "We are fairly encouraged by the crop. The tall fescues look good—demand keeps going up. We should have at least an average crop of perennial rye. Overall, I think yields will be average, maybe better."

Pepin and Pickseed West have developed Bronco Kentucky bluegrass, for mixing with the turf type tall fescues. Bronco should be available by early September.

Report says pesticide market flat

■ The size of the \$5 billion agricultural chemical market should remain constant through the end of the decade, according to "The U.S. Pesticide Industry in Transition," a news analysis prepared by Frost & Sullivan of New York.

The 273-page report notes virtually all planters who might use agricultural chemicals are already using them. Therefore, an increase in acreage would be necessary for increased usage. The report says there could be a reduction in acreage because of foreign demand reductions or supply increases, major breakthroughs in agricultural productivity, and further declines in American consumption of meat, which is a relatively expensive food in terms of planted acreage support required.

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