

Line up fine fescue early

Book your fine fescue turfseed order now. "There will be shortages due to reduced acreage and increased demand," says Bill Dunn, **Zajac Performance Seeds**.

"A large reduction in acres over the past several years and lack of seed available to import from Europe make supplies extremely short and prices high," reports **Turf Merchants, Inc.**

Fine fescue acres in Oregon have been decreasing since 1994, adds Tom Stanley, marketing manager of **Turf-Seed Inc.**, who advises to "book your fine fescues early; the quantities

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—Tom Stanley, Turf-Seed, Inc.

just aren't going to be there." "The situation is confusing," says Dr. Jerry Pepin of **Pickseed West**. "I can't figure out exactly what went wrong. Rain during pollination, heat at the wrong time, some little thing went wrong enough to cause this stuff to come in light."

Adds Scott R. Harer, Ad-

vanta Seeds West, Inc.: "new acres were difficult to place due to alternative crops. Supplies will be very tight for the next year or two."

Other varieties of turfseed should be in either adequate-to-good supplies.

Bill Young of **Oregon State University** reported that in 1996 Oregon farmers increased turfseed production by 4,721 acres. More acres were devoted to perennial ryegrass seed production than any other, about 135,300 acres, with 125,800 acres producing annual ryegrass seed. Oregon farmers produced 85,710 acres of tall fescue.

After that, acreage falls off for other Oregon-grown varieties.

While yields for this year's turf-type tall fescue crop are being described as "average," acreage is up about 10 percent.

"Acreage has been getting in line with demand this year," says Turf-Seed's Tom Stanley. "The last couple of years, acres were down, seed supplies tight and prices fairly strong."

Advanta's Scott Harer predicts "stable" prices for turf-type tall fescue seed as the industry continues to increase production to meet demand. He sees some decrease in price but inventories will continue to remain short.

Zenon Lis of **Burlingham Seeds** says there is no carryover of turf-type tall fescue seed, and

KEY (AVAILABILITY):

A=expected surplus; B=adequate supply; C=limited supply.

KEY (PRICE):

H=higher prices than last season; S=stable prices, generally the same as last season; L=lower prices than last season.

CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY	PRICE
<i>Kentucky Bluegrass</i>			
1757	Lofts Great West. Seed	B	H
Abbey	The Scotts Co.	C	S
Adelphi	Advanta/Ampac	B	S
Alpine	Pickseed West	B	S
America	Pickseed West	B	S
Ascot	The Scotts Co.	C	S
Award	Jacklin	B	S
Banjo	International Seed	C	L
Barcelona	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Bartitia	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Blacksburg	Turf-Seed	B	S
Bluechip	Medialist America	B	S
Buckingham	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Caliber	Peterson	C	S
Cannon	Advanta	B	L
Chateau	Fine Lawn Research	C	L
Classic	Peterson	C	S
Dawn	Lesco	B	S
Dragon	Zajac Performance	C	L
Eagleton	Lofts	B	S
Fortuna	International Seeds	C	S
Geronimo	Advanta	A	L
Gnome	Turf Merchants	A	L
Haga	Burlingham	B	S
Liberty	Zajac Performance	B	S
Limousine	Roberts	B	S
Midnight	Turf-Seed	B	S
NuGlade	Jacklin/Medalist America	B	S
Opal	Burlingham	B	S
P105	Lofts	B	S
Quantum Leap	Roberts	B	S
Rugby	Roberts	B	S
Rugby II	Medalist America	B	S
Shamrock	Lesco	B	S
SR 2000	Seed Research	C	S
SR 2100	Seed Research	B	S
SR 2109	Seed Research	C	S
Touchdown	Pickseed West	C	H
Unique	Turf-Seed	B	S
Wildwood	Lesco	B	S
<i>Perennial Ryegrass</i>			
Accent	Medalist America	B	S

CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY	PRICE
Achiever	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Advantage	Lesco	B	S
Advent	Jacklin	B	S
All*Star	Advanta	C	L
APM	Medalist America	B	S
Blazer II	Pickseed West	C	S
Brightstar	Turf-Seed	B	H
Calypso II	Roberts	B	S
Catalina	Turf-Seed	B	H
Cutter	Pickseed West	B	S
Delaware Dwarf	Ampac	B	L
Derby Supreme	International Seeds	B	L
Dimension	Advanta	C	L
Divine	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Edge	Pickseed West	B	S
Excel	Burlingham	B	S
Fiesta II	Pickseed West	B	S
Gator	International Seeds	B	L
Greenland	Barenbrug USA	B	L
Headstart	Roberts	B	S
Legacy	Lesco	B	S
Line Drive	Lesco	B	S
Majesty	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Nobility	Ampac	B	L
Palmer II	Lofts	B	H
Palmer III	Lofts	C	H
Pennant II	Burlingham	B	S
Prelude	Lofts	C	H
Pinnacle	Barenbrug USA	B	L
Precision	Advanta	C	L
Premier II	Barenbrug USA	B	L
Prizm	Zajac Performance	B	L
Riviera II	Roberts	C	S
SR 4010	Seed Research	B	H
SR 4100	Seed Research	B	H
SR 4200	Seed Research	B	H
Stallion Select	Fine Lawn Research	B	S
Stallion Supreme	Fine Lawn Research	A	H
Target	Medalist America	B	S
Wizard	Burlingham	B	S

Turf-Type Tall Fescue

Adobe	The Scotts Co	B	S
Amigo	Medalist America	B	S
Apache II	Turf-Seed	B	S
Arid	Medalist America	B	S
Aztec	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Bartexas	Barenbrug USA	B	L
Bravo	Lesco	B	S
Chieftain II	Roberts	C	S
Coyote	Zajac Performance	B	L
Cochise	Ampac	C	L
Cortez	Ampac	C	L
Crossfire II	Pickseed West	B	L
Falcon II	Burlingham	B	L
Finelawn Petite	Fine Lawn Research	A	L

CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY	PRICE
Finelawn 88	Fine Lawn Research	B	L
Finelawn 5GL	Fine Lawn Research	B	L
Gazelle	Zajac Performance	C	H
Guardian	Roberts	B	S
Jaguar 3	Zajac Performance	B	L
Hounddog 5	International Seeds	B	L
Lancer	Lesco	B	S
Leprechaun	Roberts	B	S
Mirage	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Mustang II	Pickseed West	B	L
Ninja	Ampac	C	L
Phoenix	Barenbrug USA	B	L
Pleasure	Ampac	B	L
Pixie E	Medalist America	B	S
Pride	International Seeds	B	L
Rebel III	Lofts	B	L
Rebel Jr.	Lofts	B	L
Rebel 3D	Lofts	B	L
Regiment	Advanta	C	L
Renegade II	Burlingham	B	L
Safari	Turf-Seed	B	S
Shortstop II	Pickseed West	B	L
SR 8200	Seed Research	B	S
SR 8210	Seed Research	B	S
SR 8300	Seed Research	B	S
Stetson	Lesco	B	S
Tomahawk	Turf-Seed	B	S
Top Hat	International Seeds	C	L
Tulsa	Advanta	C	L
Vegas	Barenbrug USA	B	L

Fine Fescues

Aruba creeping red	Medalist America	B	S
Bardur hard	Barenbrug USA	C	H
Barok sheep	Barenbrug USA	C	S
Bridgeport chew'gs	Barenbrug USA	C	S
Brigade hard	The Scotts Co.	C	S
Brittany chewings	Lesco	B	S
Capitol chewings	Ampac	C	S
Cindy red	International Seeds	B	L
Claudia creeping	Ampac	C	S
Dawson	Advanta	C	H
Defiance hard	Lesco	B	S
Discovery hard	Turf-Seed	C	H
Enjoy chewings	International Seeds	C	S
Eureka hard	Fine Lawn Research	C	H
Flyer creeping red	Fine Lawn Research	B	H
Jasper creeping red	Pickseed West	B	H
Jamestown II	Lofts	C	S
K-2 chewings	Burlingham	C	H
Longfellow chewings	International Seeds	B	S
Molinda chewings	The Scotts Co.	C	S
MX-86 sheeps	Jacklin	C	S
Nordic hard	Zajac Performance/Ampac	C	H/S
Raymond	Advanta	B	H
Reliant II hard	Lofts	C	H

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he sees a pricing decline due to lower K-31 tall fescue prices.

"The large crop of Kentucky-31 and increased acres of turf types will keep prices off last season's record," says Turf Merchants Inc.

"The tall fescues are coming

than we would have liked to see. As a general rule, the quicker things ripen, the lighter they tend to be.

"Since then we've been into a pretty normal weather pattern, and we're well into harvest now," says Laxton.

"The tall and fine fescues are now being harvested. We're just now beginning to get into ryegrass. We don't have enough actual weights in hand to give real accurate yield predictions, but I would say the

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in lighter than expected. Common bluegrasses are also coming in lighter than expected," says Pepin. "There will still be plenty of seed, but there won't be an excess."

While most suppliers are reporting an "average" crop for perennial ryegrass, almost all agree that demand for perennial ryegrass will continue strong.

The opening of about 300 new golf courses in the United States again this year, and continued strength in the home building market drive demand for perennial ryegrass.

"Lots of acres were planted but early seed yields are below projections. An overall good availability is expected," adds Pepin.

Keith Laxton, vice president of operations, Seed Research of Oregon, Inc.: "We had some really unseasonably hot weather back around spring vacation time. It was a couple weeks of 85-90 degree weather, and it tended to push things along a little quicker

tall fescue is coming in as a good, average crop, maybe a little heavier than average. And in just a few tests we've seen so far, the quality seems fine."

"Some pretty hard rain shattered out some ryegrass seed," says Laxton. Across the Willamette Valley the ryegrass crop is more like an average or slightly below average crop."

There should be adequate supplies of Kentucky bluegrass this season, including sod-quality seed. Prices should be stable.

"Our Kentucky bluegrass yields look average," says Art Wick of Lesco. "They are not as high as last year. That was a bumper crop. This year they are about where we expected them to be."

On bentgrass supplies, Pepin says, there is generally a good availability of the newer, improved varieties, and much greater market acceptance of the newer types. **LM**

CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY	PRICE
Rescue hard	Jacklin	C	S
Scaldis	Advanta	C	H
Shademark creeping red	Lesco	B	S
Shademaster II	Turf-Seed	C	H
Spartan hard	Pickseed West	C	H
SR 3100 hard	Seed Research	C	H
SR 3200 blue	Seed Research	B	H
SR 5100 chewings	Seed Research	B	H
Tiffany chewings	Turf-Seed	C	H
Treasure chewings	Zajac Performance	C	H
Valda hard	International Seeds	B	S
Victory chewings	Pickseed West	C	H
Victory II chewings	Medalist America	B	S
Vista creeping red	Zajac Performance	C	H
Warwick hard	Medalist America	B	S
<i>Bentgrass</i>			
Bardot colonial	Barenbrug USA	C	S
Cato	Pickseed West	B	S
Cobra	International Seeds	B	S
Crenshaw	Lofts	B	S
Golf Star	Medalist America	C	H
18th Green	Zajac Performance	B	L
L-93	Lofts	B	S
Lopez	Advanta/Fine Lawn	A/B	S
Mariner	Pickseed West	B	L
Penn G-2	Lesco	B	S
Penncross	Tee-2-Green	B	S
Penneagle	Tee-2-Green	B	S
Pennlinks	Tee-2-Green	B	S
Princeville	Lesco	B	S
ProCup	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Putter	Jacklin/Medalist America	B	S
Regent	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Southshore	Lofts	B	S
SR 1020	Seed Research	B	S
SR 1019	Seed Research	B	S
SR 1119	Seed Research	C	S
Tracenta	Advanta	C	H
Viper	International Seeds	B	S
<i>Other Seeded Cultivars</i>			
Barkoel prairie junegrass	Barenbrug USA	C	S
Jackpot	Jacklin	B	S
Mirage	International Seed	B	S
Primavera bermuda	Seeds West/Seed Res.	C	S
Savannah bermuda	Turf-Seed	C	S
Sonesta bermuda	The Scotts Co.	B	S
Southern Star	Medalist America	C	H
SR 6000 deschampsia	Seed Research	C	S
Sundevil II bermuda	Medalist America	B	S
Sunrise zoysia	Jacklin/Med.Am.	B	S
Sunstar bermuda	Lesco	B	S
Supina bluegrass	Fine Lawn Research	B	S
Zen zoysia	Turf Merchants/Fine Lawn	C	H