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Forage Seed Crops

1941

Ottawa, February 5, 1942:- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Plant Products Division of the Department of Agriculture issues today a report on the production of forage seed crops in Canada.

SUMMARY

The volume of alfalfa, clover and grass seed produced this year amounts to 37.8 million pounds as compared with 24.8 million pounds in 1940. Forage seed crops generally show substantial increases over the 1940 season although the production of sweet clover, Canadian blue grass and bent grass seed is considerably smaller. Notwithstanding the increase in production, prices received by growers for seeds sold to date are greater than those received in the previous season. Active buying by exporters stimulated a sharp rise in prices early in October and with a strong domestic demand, prices have continued to advance. The total value of the crop this year is estimated at 5.2 million dollars as compared with 2.2 million dollars in the 1940-41 season.

PRODUCTION

Seed crops were substantially larger in 1941 than in the previous year with the exception of sweet clover, Canadian blue grass and bent grass. The drop in production in sweet clover was due chiefly to a very small crop in Manitoba, although a slight reduction occurred in Alberta as well. Canadian blue grass is entirely produced in Ontario where the acreage has been decreasing for a number of years. The production of bent grass seed is confined to the Maritime Provinces where poor harvesting weather reduced the yields.

Preliminary Estimates of Commercial Production of Forage Seed
Crops in Canada in 1941 and the Revised Estimates for 1940

<u>Description</u>	<u>1940</u> <u>lb.</u>	<u>1941</u> <u>lb.</u>
Alfalfa	3,980,000	8,803,000
Red Clover	2,258,000	6,210,000
Alsike Clover	1,140,000	5,194,000
Sweet Clover	4,959,000	2,718,000
Timothy	4,222,000	4,813,000
Canadian Blue Grass	336,000	100,000
Crested Wheat Grass	2,013,500	2,285,000
Brome Grass	5,752,000	7,478,000
Western Rye Grass	35,000	64,000
Creeping Red Fescue	58,900	102,000
Bent Grasses	13,000	11,000
TOTAL	24,767,400	37,778,000

VALUE

With production of most forage seed crops this year much greater than in 1940 and average values at a considerably higher level, the total value of alfalfa, clover and grass seeds is 136 per cent higher than that of 1940. The table which follows sets out the preliminary estimates of value of the seed crops grown in 1941 and the final estimates for the 1940 crop. These estimates are based on average returns to growers for all grades of seed during the marketing season.

Preliminary Estimates of Value of Forage Seed Crops in Canada for the
Crop Year 1941-42 and Final Estimates for 1940-41

Description	1940-41 \$	1941-42 \$
Alfalfa	577,700	1,816,500
Red Clover	311,800	1,239,300
Alsike Clover	166,200	735,600
Sweet Clover	127,000	169,000
Timothy	274,500	359,700
Canadian Blue Grass	60,500	18,000
Crested Wheat Grass	154,700	163,900
Brome Grass	476,300	605,500
Western Rye Grass	1,700	4,800
Creeping Red Fescue	26,300	45,700
Bent Grasses	7,500	7,100
TOTAL	2,184,200	5,165,100

Preliminary Estimates of Commercial Production and Value of Forage
Seed Crops in 1941 and Final Estimates for 1940

Description	1940		1941	
	Production lb.	Value \$	Production lb.	Value \$
Maritime Provinces -				
Red Clover	3,000	500	20,000	4,400
Timothy	200,000	17,000	175,000	14,000
Bent Grasses	13,000	7,500	11,000	7,100
Quebec -				
Red Clover	265,000	43,700	21,000	4,700
Timothy	300,000	22,500	75,000	6,700
Ontario -				
Alfalfa	410,000	71,700	1,900,000	432,200
Red Clover	1,440,000	201,600	5,910,000	1,187,500
Alsike Clover	814,000	122,100	4,950,000	701,700
Sweet Clover	625,000	21,900	675,000	52,300
Timothy	2,295,000	160,600	2,507,000	200,600
Canadian Blue Grass	336,000	60,500	100,000	18,000
Manitoba -				
Alfalfa	950,000	85,500	1,290,000	245,100
Red Clover	-	-	14,000	2,400
Alsike Clover	-	-	26,000	2,600
Sweet Clover	3,684,000	92,100	1,523,000	91,400
Timothy	10,000	400	55,000	3,300
Crested Wheat Grass	171,500	14,700	182,000	12,700
Brome Grass	1,310,000	96,300	2,949,000	250,700
Western Rye Grass	-	-	10,000	900
Saskatchewan -				
Alfalfa	1,900,000	330,500	5,000,000	1,025,000
Alsike Clover	-	-	1,000	100
Sweet Clover	200,000	4,000	200,000	8,500
Crested Wheat Grass	1,402,000	104,800	1,700,000	119,000
Brome Grass	1,440,000	106,000	1,504,000	112,800
Western Rye Grass	35,000	1,700	54,000	3,900
Creeping Red Fescue	-	-	2,000	700
Alberta -				
Alfalfa	660,000	79,200	570,000	105,400
Red Clover	150,000	18,000	200,000	34,000
Alsike Clover	206,000	23,700	205,000	28,700
Sweet Clover	450,000	9,000	320,000	16,800
Timothy	1,000,000	50,000	1,251,000	75,100
Crested Wheat Grass	440,000	35,200	400,000	32,000
Brome Grass	3,002,000	274,000	3,025,000	242,000
Creeping Red Fescue	58,500	26,300	100,000	45,000

Preliminary Estimates of Commercial Production and Value of Forage Seed Crops in 1941 and Final Estimates for 1940 - Concluded.

Description	1940		1941	
	Production lb.	Value \$	Production lb.	Value \$
British Columbia -				
Alfalfa	60,000	10,800	43,000	8,800
Red Clover	400,000	48,000	45,000	6,300
Alsike Clover	120,000	20,400	12,000	2,500
Timothy	417,000	24,000	750,000	60,000
Crested Wheat Grass	-	-	3,000	200

PRICES

While no figures comparable to those shown in the table below are available for past years, reports indicate that the average prices received by growers this season are at a considerably higher level. Early in the marketing season prices showed no definite trend to higher levels, but heavy purchases for export were soon reflected in a sharp rise, particularly in prices paid for alfalfa, red clover, alsike clover and brome grass. Timothy seed was less in demand than the seeds already mentioned but purchases by exporters caused prices to rise sharply during November and December. Indications point to a continued rise in prices of most seeds as the planting season approaches. The table below represents the average prices received by growers for seeds sold during the current season to December 15.

Average Returns to Growers for Cleaned No. 1 Commercial Grade
for the 1941 Crop, by Provinces 1/

	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario Eastern District	Ontario Western District	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	(cents per pound)							
Alfalfa	-	-	22 3/4	22 3/4	19	20 1/2	18 1/2	20 1/2
Red Clover	22	22 1/2	20 3/4	20 3/4	17	-	12	14
Alsike Clover	-	-	15 1/4	15 1/4	10	12	14	21
Sweet Clover	-	-	7 3/4	7 3/4	6	4 1/4	5 1/4	-
Timothy	9	10	9	9	6 1/2	-	7	9 1/4
Canadian Blue Grass	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-
Crested Wheat Grass	-	-	-	-	8	7 3/4	10	9
Brome Grass	-	-	-	-	9 1/2	8 1/2	9	-
Western Rye Grass	-	-	-	-	9 1/2	7 1/4	-	-
Creeping Red Fescue	-	-	-	-	-	35	45	-
Bent Grasses	65 <u>2/</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ To December 15.

2/ Certified and Registered seed only.

Preliminary Estimates of Commercial Production
of Forage Seed Crops, 1941

By Provinces

Provinces	Alfalfa	Red Clover	Alsike	Sweet Clover	Timothy
	(p o u n d s)				
Maritimes	-	20,000	-	-	175,000
Quebec	-	21,000	-	-	75,000
Eastern Ontario .	300,000	735,000	700,000	175,000	707,000
Western Ontario .	1,600,000	5,175,000	4,250,000	500,000	1,800,000
Manitoba	1,290,000	14,000	26,000	1,523,000	55,000
Saskatchewan	5,000,000	-	1,000	200,000	-
Alberta	570,000	200,000	205,000	320,000	1,251,000
British Columbia.	43,000	45,000	12,000	-	750,000
CANADA	8,803,000	6,210,000	5,194,000	2,718,000	4,813,000

Preliminary Estimates of Commercial Production
of Forage Seed Crops, 1941 - Concluded.

By Provinces

	Canadian Blue Grass	Crested Wheat Grass	Brome Grass	Western Rye Grass	Creeping Red Fescue	Bent Grasses
	(p o u n d s)					
Maritimes	-	-	-	-	-	11,000
Quebec	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Ontario ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Ontario ..	100,000	-	-	-	-	-
Manitoba	-	182,000	2,949,000	10,000	-	-
Saskatchewan	-	1,700,000	1,504,000	54,000	2,000	-
Alberta	-	400,000	3,025,000	-	100,000	-
British Columbia .	-	3,000	-	-	-	-
CANADA	100,000	2,285,000	7,478,000	64,000	102,000	11,000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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