

# AGRONOMIC CROP SCIENCE REPORT

Research

Extension

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## TRENDS IN OREGON SEED PRODUCTION ACREAGE <sup>1/</sup>

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Although Oregon farmers began commercial seed production in the early 1920's, records of acreage in the early years are not available. Data on seed production since 1935 is recorded in the attached tables. Total seed production in Oregon reached a peak in 1942 with 383,800 acres of legumes and 112,050 acres of grass seed. Legume crop seeds were in great demand because they were used as cover crops and to supply soil nitrogen as a war time measure. Reduced demand and diseases caused lower seed yields, resulting in decreased legume seed production. The Oregon legume seed acreage had thus declined to 47,200 acres by 1968.

Meanwhile, grass acreage increased, reaching a high point in 1959 with 241,000 acres in seed production. Recently the acreage of grass seed production has declined because of field burning restrictions, competition from other crops, and a lower market demand for grass seed.

The economic impact of the Oregon grass and legume seed industry on the State economy is estimated in excess of 79 million dollars (see Table 1). The following tables show the annual acreage of the major grass and legume seed crops in Oregon.

Table 1. Cash receipts from Oregon farm marketings of grass and legume seeds and value added by processing. 1974. <sup>2/</sup>

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Amount paid to growers (all seeds)		\$70,576,000
Value added by cleaning, sacking, handling		
Payroll	\$3,817,000	
Packaging materials	2,049,000	
Other	3,444,000	
	<u>\$9,310,000</u>	<u>9,310,000</u>
Total value of clean, sacked seed		<u>\$79,886,000</u>

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<sup>1/</sup> Report EXT/ACS 12, Oregon State University Extension Service. Revised 2/78

<sup>2/</sup> Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. March 1975. Agriculture: Its Importance to Oregon's Economy; Special Report 430.

OREGON ACREAGE OF MAJOR LEGUME SEED CROPS

Year	Red Clover	Alsike Clover	White Clover	Crimson Clover	Ladino Clover	Small White Clover	Sweet Clover	Hairy Vetch	Common & Wil- lamette Vetch	Common Vetch	Willamette Vetch	Hungarian Vetch	Purple Vetch	Austrian Winter Peas	Subclover	Alfalfa
----- 1,000 ACRES -----																
1925	11.1	2.9														
1926	16.4	1.6														1.
1927	20.0	2.0														2.
1928	22.0	2.0														3.
1929	23.0	2.5								1.58						3.9
1930	16.3	4.7														3.
1931	28.0	14.0														3.
1932	14.7	12.3														3.
1933	10.4	10.6														3.
1934	27.0	7.0														2.
1935	15.7	12.3														5.
1936	11.8	7.8		0.2	1.2		.3	40.	7.9	7.9		8.3	1.2	20.7		6.4
1937	27.0	21.0		0.45	1.4		.45	29.	8.0	8.0		6.7	.65	21.2		7.7
1938	24.0	24.0		0.46	1.9		.83	28.4	7.6	7.6		6.5	.7	28		9.6
1939	19.0	17.0	.1	.3	3.0	0.125	.65	37.	15.5	15.5		6.4	1.0	38.5		12.
1940	13.0	23.0	.8	1.2	4.5	.8	.30	84.	34.3	32.5	1.8	7.0	3.	69		9.6
1941	12.0	20.0	1.1	7.0	4.4	1.1	.45	120.	52.	36.	16.	6.5	4.	48.	25.	6.
1942	12.0	17.5	2.0	10.0	2.7	2.0	.60	125.	58.	36.	22.	20.	3.	78.		5.
1943	10.0	12.5	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.3	.80	80	45.			10.	2.	62.		4.
1944	12.0	14.5	2.6	1.5	4.9	2.6	.50	72	68.			4.5	1.5	20.		4.5
1945	12.0	9.0	1.8	2.0	6.2	1.8	.30	47	95.			2.0	2.	25.		6.
1946	19.0	12.5	3.0	2.3	6.0	3.0	.40	38	102			1.5	2.5	14.		6.
1947	23.0	15.0	1.2	2.3	5.2	1.2	*	44	82			1.5	1.5	20.		4.
1948	25.0	15.0	1.6	2.3	5.5	1.6		50	54			1.0	1.0	20.		4.
1949	24.0	10.4	1.0	1.6	10.0	1.0		53	75			1.4	.6	44.		5.4
1950	26.0	9.5	1.0	3.0	20.	1.0		70	77			2.0	1.0	65.	1.4	7.
1951	20.0	10.5	.5	4.2	26.0	1.0		64	25			*	**	9	2.4	10.5
1952	11.	11.5	1.5	7.0	21.	1.0		69	34					11.	2.1	10.5
1953	13.	10.5		4.5	8.	.6		46	25					20		5.0
1954	17.	7.5		3.7	1.4	.9		20	13					24		5.5
1955	17.	6.5		5.5	3.8	1.5		22	15					27		6.0

\* Too small to estimate  
\*\* Discontinued

OREGON ACREAGE OF MAJOR LEGUME SEED CROPS (Cont.)

Year	Red Clover	Alsike Clover	White Clover	Crimson Clover	Ladino Clover	Small White Clover	Sweet Clover	Hairy Vetch	Common & Wil- lamette Vetch	Common Vetch	Willamette Vetch	Hungarian Vetch	Purple Vetch	Austrian Winter Peas	Subclover	Alfalfa
----- 1,000 ACRES -----																
1956	13.	7.0		6.0	2.0	2.5	*	25.	8.0			*		19.0		6.5
1957	21.	6.5		11.0	1.9	1.8		44.	17.					21.		9.0
1958	17.	5.0		12.0	1.0	2.0		36.	14.					17.		10.0
1959	15.	5.5		16.0	1.4	1.3		28.	8.0					8.		9.5
1960	25	3.0		21.0	1.0	1.4		15.	9.0					8.		11.0
1961	20.	1.1		15.5	.8	1.5		12.	8.5					9.5		14.5
1962	19.	.6		17.0	*	2.1		12.	8.0					8.5		17.0
1963	23.	**		15.0		2.5		13.	8.0					8.		23.0
1964	24.		2.1	18.5		2.1		12.	8.5					8.		24.
1965	22.5		2.1	10.0		2.1		11.	**					**		20.
1966	19.0		2.0	15.0		2.0		14.								14.
1967	13.0		5.9	14.0		2.1		13.								13.
1968	7.5		2.1	14.5		2.1		8.								13.
1969	15.		6.1	16.0		6.1		5.0								12.
1970	21.			19.0		7.3		7.0								12.5
1971	21.			10.5		14.6		7.5								12.5
1972	21.			6.0				5.7								12.0
1973	16.0			5.7	3.10***			5.0		2.0				1.9		11.5
1974	13.0			4.8	1.65***			3.0		1.1				1.4		13.0
1975	12.0			5.0	1.25***			5.5		1.1				1.3		11.5
1976	15.0			11.5	1.42***			7.5		2.4				2.7		11.0
	* Too small to estimate ** Discontinued *** White and Ladino clover															

OREGON ACREAGE OF MAJOR GRASS SEED CROPS

Year	Perennial Ryegrass	Annual Ryegrass	Bentgrass	Merion Kentucky Bluegrass	Other Kentucky Bluegrass	Orchardgrass	Crested Wheatgrass	Sudan grass	Tall Oatgrass	Canary Grass	Chewings Fescue	Creeping Red Fescue	Tall Fescue	Meadow Foxtail
----- 1,000 ACRES -----														
1925														
1926														
1927														
1928														
1929														
1930														
1931														
1932														
1933														
1934														
1935														
1936	.7	23.5	5.2		.7	.02	.69	0.7		.1	.05			
1937	2.2	21.0	4.4		.6	.01	1.26	1.	.1	.1	.2			
1938	3.7	42.0	4.1		.6	.02	5.76	.9	.1	.1	.5		.07	
1939	7.0	55.0	4.5		.6	.03	2.0	1.3	.1	.25	.92		.15	
1940	9.5	65.0	5.7		.5	.1	6.3	1.1	.1	.15	2.2	.1	.75	.1
1941	12.5	70.	6.2		.55	.1	2.8	0.8	.2	.1	3.75	.2	1.25	.1
1942	13.2	84.	6.4		*	*	1.5	1.	*	*	4.	.35	1.5	.1
1943	14.5	60.	6.6				1.0	2.			4.2	.5	2.1	*
1944	16.5	72.	7.0				.5	4.			5.3	.8	3.8	
1945	15.	80.	7.0				.5	3.5			6.	1.	5.	
1946	17.0	92.	9.0				.1	4.			10.	2.5	7.	
1947	18.0	87.	11.				.1	4.			12.	4.	10.	
1948	17.0	73.	12.				1.0	1.5			13.	5.	12.	
1949	14.0	86.	13.				.5	2.5			12.	4.	15.	
1950	14.0	115.	14.				1.6	2.			13.	4.5	22.	
1951	15.0	100.	14.				1.0	4.			15.	5.	26.	
1952	17.0	113.	15.	.5			.2	5.			16.5	5.5	28.	
1953	20.0	100.	16.5	1.3			*	3.5			17.	6.	18.	
1954	27.	115.	17.5	2.0				3.			20.	7.5	11.	
1955	33.	124.	20.0	3.0				3.			21.	6.5	11.	

\* Too small to estimate

OREGON ACREAGE OF MAJOR GRASS SEED CROPS (Cont.)

Year	Perennial Ryegrass	Annual Ryegrass	Bentgrass	Merion Kentucky Bluegrass	Other Kentucky Bluegrass	Orchardgrass	Crested Wheatgrass	Sudan grass	Tall Oatgrass	Canary Grass	Chewings Fescue	Creeping Red Fescue	Tall Fescue	Meadow Foxtail
----- 1,000 ACRES -----														
1956	41.0	89.	23.	4.5	*	*	*	2.0	*	*	17.	5.5	8.0	*
1957	39.	72.	26.	6.0				1.9			20.	5.5	7.5	
1958	36.	72.	24.	5.5							21.	6.5	5.6	
1959	46.	124.	23.	6.7							24.	11.	6.3	
1960	48.	115.	22.	7.5							25.	12.	6.2	
1961	52.	90.	23.	7.5							25.	11.5	7.5	
1962	57.	95.	23.	7.0							20.	11.	9.0	
1963	57.	88.	27.	4.3							17.	10.	12.0	
1964	60.	91.	31.	3.5							16.5	10.	13.5	
1965	54.	88.	32.	4.6							17.0	13.	15.0	
1966	54.	88.	31.	5.6							17.5	14.5	14.5	
1967	53.	75.	30.	6.5							17.5	16.	14.0	
1968	47.	87.	26.	4.5	27.	8.59					16.0	15.	14.0	
1969	44	119	26.	3.3							16.5	14.	15.0	
1970	40	145	27.	3.6							16.5	15.	15.5	
1971	38	136	28.	4.8							17.0	15.	16.5	
1972	43	130	30.	6.0							16.5	14.5	18.0	
1973	50	130	29.	7.0	21.	19.00					14.0	14.5	18.5	
1974	53	137	28.	6.0	21.	16.00					13.0	15.0	16.0	
1975	48	132	20.	3.5	20.7	12.00					11.5	13.0	10.0	
1976	44	122	14.5	2.0	13.8	13.00					9.5	11.0	10.0	

\* Too small to estimate