

The AMPAC Impact

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Wet, Wet, Wet!

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time we Oregonians were enjoying 65-70 degree temperatures, playing golf (with winter rates), and everyone was talking about how dry we were. Yes, even AMPAC.

No one could have predicted a very rainy May and June, massive hurricanes, family tragedies, and illnesses. I don't pretend to know what will happen in 2006; however, here is a quick glance at the future markets and production.

So far there seems to be an early start to the spring season. Yes, I know it's the middle of winter, but because of good inventory movement late last fall; customers are restocking their warehouse earlier this year. Although we see some markets continue to soften like Kentucky Bluegrass, this early movement put increased pressure on already tight markets like Tall Fescue and Orchardgrass.

Here is a quick look at each individual market for spring 2006:

Kentucky Bluegrass: Common/low-end varieties will continue to soften while elite varieties hold steady.

Creeping Red Fescue: this market has firmed up in the last few weeks and I look for it to remain firm all spring.

Hard Fescue: Still very tight and hard to find.

Chewings Fescue: Fewer production acres will keep this market firm all spring.

Tall Fescue: If ever there has been a chance to run out of tall fescue, this is the spring. The weather will play a major, role but look for this market to continue to increase.

Perennial Ryegrass: There seems to be a good supply of both VNS and proprietary varieties so I look for this market to soften.

Annual Ryegrass: The market will stay firm.



January 2006



Third year perennial ryegrass fields in the Willamette Valley. The light-green you see is mostly voluntary perennial ryegrass that would normally be sprayed out. The dark-green clumps are what is left of the third year stand. These pictures are from the first of the January 2006.

Orchardgrass: Supply is very tight so I look for this market to continue to strengthen.

White Clover: Supply is limited so I look for the prices to stay firm at least until we see Australian or New Zealand imports (May/June) and new crop.

Red Clover: Tight supply will keep prices firm until new crop.

While it's still too early to make accurate harvest predictions for 2006 there is one issue to keep your eyes on; the 3rd year and some 2nd year perennial ryegrass fields. The pictures are examples of what we are seeing. The Willamette Valley experienced a very HOT July and no rain until late September. This put a lot of stress on the older stands of Perennial ryegrass and damaged a good majority of the 3rd and some of the 2nd year fields.

A few growers plowed out their fields last fall. While some of these 3rd year fields may still come back, a lot of producers are considering taking them out this spring. The following is a glance at new plantings by crop and year for Oregon. Keep in mind these are only certified fields/acres.

Oregon Seed Certification Service

www.oscs.orst.edu

Summary of New Plantings by Crop Kind and Calendar Year

Crop Kind	New Fields					New Acres				
	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Alfalfa	2	5	8	4	2	119	259	376	76	63
Annual rape	21	13	6	1		519	199	404	2	
Annual ryegrass	37	58	23	47	47	1,913	2,566	948	1,616	1,851
Arrowleaf clover	2	5	12			105	218	522		
Barley	23	24	25	25	22	1,215	901	974	876	1,484
Big bluegrass		2	1	1			9	13	21	
Blue fescue	2				6	53				174
Blue wildrye		2					2			
Chewings fescue	70	51	37	12	21	2,650	2,024	1,411	684	677
Chickpea	10	5		1		324	99		10	
Club wheat	3	4				536	313			
Colonial bentgrass	6	16	19	21	23	118	641	585	922	642
Common vetch					1					13
Creeping bentgrass	43	44	33	32	14	1,063	1,128	924	1,051	230
Crested dogtail				1					54	
Crested hairgrass					1					4
Crested wheatgrass					1					2
Crimson clover	2	2	6	6	10	35	33	290	224	374
Festulolium		1			2		40			105
Flax					1					8
Forage kochia					2					70
Hard fescue	18	14	15	9	7	535	371	360	217	263
Idaho bentgrass	1				1	49				7
Intermediate ryegrass	13	19	43	14	19	549	682	1,706	645	776
Kale	1	3	2			29	33	20		
Kentucky bluegrass	107	153	105	84	127	5,471	6,675	4,918	3,256	4,730
Ladino clover	8	2		3	2	858	180		210	75
Lewis flax			1					7		
Little burnet	2	1			1	59	42			10
Meadow fescue	1					5				
Meadowfoam	7	5		1	1	127	142		8	10
Mountain brome	2					31				
Oat	5	21	20	34	25	246	690	758	1,377	797
Orchardgrass	9	20	29	47	64	283	757	1,064	1,296	2,012
Oriental mustard	1	1				75	60			
Perennial ryegrass	500	618	679	679	629	20,555	25,235	28,486	27,670	23,733
Radish				1					10	
Rattail fescue				1					98	
Red clover	14	11	11	4	13	509	567	451	181	368
Red fescue	39	44	39	21	34	1,291	2,043	1,724	979	1,221
Red oat	5		1	8	4	253		22	382	168
Rough bluegrass	33	29	32	42	36	1,117	848	1,062	1,528	1,080
Seashore paspalum	10	2	3	4		118	113	25	20	
Sheep fescue	2	1		4	1	190	30		124	55
Smooth brome			2		1			25		2
Sudangrass	2	5	2	5		40	171	75	163	
Sugar beet		15	11	35	49		15	14	47	69
Swede		1					5			
Tall fescue	385	479	348	234	658	17,804	20,435	18,310	10,575	27,290
Texas bluegrass				2					10	
Thickspike wheatgrass				1	1				126	62
Triticale	4	1	2	1	5	210	80	14	8	135
Tufted hairgrass	1	1		1	1	6	16		5	4
Turnip		5	3	1	1		136	52	28	26
Velvet bentgrass	3	2	1		2	49	30	8		42
Western wheatgrass				2					243	
Wheat	151	179	75	134	86	8,250	11,347	3,022	9,469	5,181
White clover	10	10	6	1	3	692	385	304	50	122
White mustard			3					78		
Wood bluegrass	1	3		2		16	31		20	
Totals	1,556	1,877	1,603	1,526	1,934	68,067	79,551	68,952	64,261	73,945

Includes all applications received and processed by: 01/09/06 | 01/10/06 | 01/12/04 | 01/17/03 | 01/18/02 |



First of all I would like to wish all of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year! Thank you all very much for making 2005 a successful year!

Last year we officially introduced the Wildlife Perfect™ line of seed mixtures and packaging. We had a lot of questions on how well it would be received. I would like to say that we Attracted the Wild and have re-designed the packaging and created three awesome mixtures that we will have on stock. Custom mixtures still can be made as long as the guidelines are followed for Wildlife Perfect™. This would not have happened if Wildlife Perfect™ was not such a success in 2005. Our new small pack bags are very retail friendly and will compete with the best packaging the “box” stores can put on their shelves. If you have not received sample packaging or the Wildlife Perfect™ Program details, please call one of us and we will send the small pack bags and information to you for your review.

As always, we at AMPAC strive to promote the best varieties available at competitive pricing. The Wildlife Perfect™ mixtures and names have slightly changed for 2006, but, be assured the mixtures will still contain “improved grazing type” varieties high in protein. There are many companies in the wildlife market these days marketing lower quality seed, hay type varieties, or warm season varieties across the country and claiming they will make a great food plot. Wildlife Perfect™ contains varieties that we have used in the grazing industry for years and they are proven both by the farmers and university testing. A lot of attention is placed on protein levels for Wildlife mixes. After having our varieties sampled from an “on farm” plots (not grown in a greenhouse), I am pleased to say we have the numbers to back up that our varieties are indeed special! AMPAC’s Wildlife Perfect™ varieties tested as follows: Hunt Club™ Brand White Clover contains 34% protein, Jumbo Ladino Clover contained 31% protein, StarFire Red Clover 29% protein, BuckGro™ Brand Forage Turnip 31% protein, Rutmaster™ Brand Hybrid Brassica 31% protein, and Plot Enhancer™ Brand Chicory 33+% protein.

Wildlife Perfect™ Mixtures have taken on a new look as well and are blended to create a very attractive food

plot that you can be assured will grow in your area. Wildlife Perfect™ Brassica mixture is an annual mixture with the added benefit of Plot Enhancer Chicory. The combination of our grazing type turnips with rape will create an exceptional plot for fall hunting since the deer will not heavily graze the turnips until after the first frost unless food sources are poor in the area. The deer will graze the leaves first then come back and devour the bulbs in the early winter months. Plot Enhancer™ Chicory, which is a grazing type perennial, has been added to the mixture to give the customer a start to a perennial food plot. After the season, the customer can come back to the food plot and frost seed our Wildlife Grazing Mixture or the Wildlife Ultimate Plus Mixture.

The Wildlife Grazing Mixture has changed slightly by adding Plot Enhancer Chicory and the Hunt Club Brand Clover. This mixture was developed and has been proven in Pennsylvania for 8+ years. Wildlife Grazing Mixture will perform well in all types of soil and last up to 5 years or longer if managed properly.

Wildlife Ultimate Plus Mixture replaces our improved chicory and clover mixture with an added benefit of alfalfa. Wildlife Ultimate Plus is a high protein and carbohydrate mixture the will remain attractive for up to 5 years if managed properly. Once again, the varieties making up this mixture are all grazing type varieties that have been proven over numerous years!

When selecting seed varieties or mixtures for wildlife food plots, please make sure to select mixtures or seeds that are adapted to your area and just as important make sure they are grazing type varieties. People that put food plots in will not fence the plots off or create back fencing to control the deer grazing as others would in the agricultural community. Deer are free-range animals and once they find a nutritious food plot, they will heavily graze the area. This is why it is so important to have “improved grazing type” varieties with lower crowns and more palatability. If using “hay type” varieties with higher crowns, once the plant is grazed to the soil surface, there is no chance for re-germination.

For most of us hunting seasons are now closed and we sit back and cherish the memories of the past season or as outdoor viewers we cherish the sights that we saw in 2005. Now is the time to start the thought process for 2006 on how to improve the wildlife habitat that we so enjoy. Please give us a call at AMPAC to discuss any of the Wildlife Perfect™ Mixtures or program details and get out there and ATTRACT the WILD!!



Non-traditional Forages for Grazing: Turnips and other Brassicas

Over the past few years there have been a number of production livestock producers that have realized the benefits of grazing turnips and other brassicas. Turnips and other brassicas have traditionally been utilized for late season grazing to help extend the grazing season. But other ways are being found to utilize these highly productive, high quality forage crops. My purpose in this presentation is to introduce the different types of turnips and brassicas and explain how they can be utilized for various systems and different uses.

Turnips: Within the turnip family there are different types that provide different opportunities for the livestock producer.

Leafy Types: These are typically varieties that have good leaf production and a tap type root. The variety most common in this type is the old garden variety “Seven Top”. There has not been research to improve this type of turnip when it comes to animal performance, palatability or dry matter yield production.

Forage Turnips: This type of turnip was developed to provide multiple grazing opportunities. While other types of turnips have one main growing point this type has from 6-20 growing points that shoot up new growth after being grazed. The bulb is firmly anchored so the animals will not pull out the bulb when grazing. If strip grazing, and only looking for one harvest, this type has shown in university studies to provide significantly more protein produced per acre over bulb type turnips, with 50% of the bulb being consumable. Appin Forage Turnip is the most popular variety in this category.

Appin Forage Turnip was bred for improved palatability and regrowth for multiple harvests. Its high leaf to bulb ratio results in a very leafy crop with high digestibility.

Globe Types: This type of turnip is probably the most common type sown by producers. The bulb on this turnip can get quite large and is mainly above ground with the leaves coming from one main growing point. The most common in this type is the old garden variety “Purple

Top”. Newer varieties would include York Green Globe and Dynamo.

Tankard Turnips: This type of turnip is a high yielding, versatile, highly nutritious, traditional soft turnip of early maturity. It is characterized by a much higher proportion of leaf compared to globe type turnips. The tankard shaped bulb, two thirds of which grows above ground, enhances utilization. This type is predominantly used for winter forage. Varieties in this category include Barkant and Sampson.

Hybrid Brassicas: Hybrid Brassicas are crosses between turnips and forage rape, kale and rape, Chinese cabbage and rape, etc... These products vary in usage, yield, palatability, and quality. Some of the more popular varieties in this category are Pasja (Forage Turnip X Forage Rape) and Tyfon (Chinese Cabbage X Rape). These types generally have a deeper tap root instead of a bulb. The improved products have very high yields of high quality leaves.

Forage Rape: Forage rapes differ from rape varieties that were mainly bred for seed or oil production (like Dwarf Essex rape). The improved rape varieties have improved yield, palatability, and often can be grazed more than one time. Improved varieties have a higher leaf to stem ratio, thereby providing improved animal utilization. Improved varieties include, Bonar and Barnopoli.

Forage Kale: Forage Kales are late maturing and provide late season forage. Generally these are planted in the spring and harvested in the winter. The long wait will generally be worth it as improved varieties can yield as high as 10 tons per acre of very high quality forage. Improved varieties include Maris Kestral Kale.

Swedes: Swedes are also late maturing crops that can have bulbs as large as a football. These products have a very high bulb to stem ratio and are grazed one time – generally late fall or into the winter. Improved varieties include Major Plus and Winton.

Forage Yields: Yields on the different types of products vary widely. The varieties that were bred for multiple grazings often can yield more...if grazed multiple times. If grazed one time there is minimal difference in DM yield. However, the yield will be proportionately either higher in very high quality leaves or higher in high energy bulbs. Products like Pasja will

deliver only leaves but can be grazed up to 6-7 times per year when spring planted.

Cliff Schuette in Breese, IL reported grazing spring planted Pasja (planted with oats) six times in 2005. As of October 2005 the Pasja and oats yielded over 16,000# DM with 30% stand of Pasja left for grazing with the volunteer oats that came back. The average forage quality was 27.5% CP and 139 RFV in October.

When planted after cereal grains are harvested brassica yields can be as high as six tons per acre. When planted after corn silage or early harvested corn yields can be as high as five tons per acre when planted with cereal grains or Italian ryegrass.

Forage Quality: The forage quality on brassicas can be very high. Tests on Appin Forage Turnips have shown 30+% CP, 340+ RFV, and 90+ Digestibility. Tests on Pasja have shown similar results. The leaves of the brassicas generally run 25-30% CP and 75-90% digestible. The bulbs generally run 10-13% CP with a RFV of 80-100.

Because the quality is so high, it is important to provide additional fiber to ensure best utilization of the brassicas.

Utilization of products:

Spring Planted: Some brassicas (Appin and Pasja) can be planted in the spring of the year and utilized within 50-70 days when planted with ryegrass or spring oats. These products offer the opportunity to be grazed four to six times from first grazing to late fall. Others (Bonar, Barnopoli) can be grazed mid-summer and then again in the fall if properly grazed. Kale and Swedes are often planted at this time as well. Rapes, Kales, or Swedes will probably need herbicide treatments for weed control (follow label directions).

Summer Planted: Many beef and dairy farmers have been utilizing Pasja as a companion to summer annual grasses (BMR Sorghum Sudangrass, Pearl Millet, and Sudangrass) to improve the forage quality of the crop. At the Cove Mountain farm in south central Pennsylvania, dairy cows increased 8#/head/day in milk production when they grazed BMR Sorghum Sudangrass and Pasja during the summer of 2004 instead of grazing permanent pasture. Appin has also been utilized by beef farmers with summer annuals across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions for this purpose, with gains reportedly at 3#/head/day when grazing the mixture.

Rapes planted at this time have also provided excellent summer-winter feed for sheep producers.

Late-Summer-Early Fall Plantings: This has been the traditional planting time for most turnips. Sowing after corn silage is harvested or early corn is shelled can provide tremendous forage to extend the grazing season. Over the past few years many Midwestern producers have flown oats, cereal rye, and turnips into standing corn with pretty good success. If trying this practice wait until the corn leaves are drying 1/3- 1/2 of the way up the plant so that proper sunlight can reach the seedlings.

Grazing Brassicas for Best Utilization: When grazing turnips or hybrid brassicas; leave a minimum of four inches (4") of the plant for the best opportunity for quick regrowth. Strip grazing and utilizing back fences will allow for improved utilization and forage regrowth. When grazing Rape leave 10-12" or the stem for most rapid regrowth. When grazing only one time, strip graze to enhance utilization and reduce wastage.

Fertility Management: If you wish to achieve multiple grazings you need to fertilize well (~150-200# N/A in 2-4 applications, and 60-80#P/A). Cliff Schuette used the equivalent of 300# N by utilizing hog manure.

Cautions: DO NOT turn animals into brassicas when they are hungry. Make sure your electric fence is on when strip grazing. When animals acquire the taste for brassicas they can eat too much and have health problems, even to the point of death.

Do not grow brassica crops on the same site for more than two consecutive years. This will prevent the buildup of pathogens which could limit stand productivity.

Note: This article was written for a presentation Dave R. made at the Heart of America Grazing Conference in January 2006 at Cave City, KY.

For further management and product information visit <http://www.ampacseed.com/brassicas.htm> or contact me at d.robison@ampacseed.com.