At BrettYoung, we strive to be a company like no other. We are proud of our strategic partnerships with world-class organizations through which we source leading technologies and genetics. We are passionate about delivering the products that help keep your business profitable, and backing them with knowledge and experience.

The ag industry has undergone significant change as consolidation continues and the number of choices declines.

Yet BrettYoung remains a family-owned company. We have strong connections to local markets where, along with investment in innovation and infrastructure, we continue to grow our presence.

We succeed in our markets by bringing distinct choices that deliver performance and value. By design, our success is deeply rooted within your success; the two are intertwined and grow together. We are Distinct By Design and we wouldn’t have it any other way.

Let’s Grow Together
Seed production is core to our business, relying on long-term grower partnerships that improve yield and quality. It attracts growers who want profitable cropping options earning strong returns on investment.

When you partner with BrettYoung in seed production, you’ll be assigned your very own Seed Production Specialist to help you with the entire production cycle. From planning, to seeding and crop development, to harvesting and delivering your crop back to the BrettYoung facilities, we’ll be there every step of the way.

Contact a BrettYoung Seed Production Specialist to learn more about contract production opportunities, and let’s grow together.

Benefits of Seed Production
Summer or fall seeding can be an excellent way to get a head start on next year’s seeding, spread your risk and add some profitable cropping options to your rotation. Forage and turf seed markets have been stable with consistent demand and good prices.

In addition to being some of the more consistently profitable cropping options available to Western Canadian growers, turf and forage seed production also provides agronomic benefits for your farm.

Agronomic Benefits
Turf Seed Production
• Early harvest splits up fall workload
• Increases organic matter, helps improve less productive or marginal soils
• Some species have tolerance to salinity, alkalinity and acidity

Legume Seed Production
• Improves soil tilth
• Low input user
• Nitrogen fixation

Grow Seed and Save
Seed Grower Partnership Program
Grow BrettYoung forage or turf seed for production and save big with cash rebates on crop input purchases of Elite® corn or soybeans, BrettYoung canola and BioBoost® products. Plus, special seed grower discounts are provided on Parlay® plant growth regulator.

Economic Benefits
There is no better time to produce forage and turf seed. Compared to other commodity crops, forage and turfgrass seed production has an excellent profitability track record. It has consistently pencilled out at or near the top in profitability. Furthermore, prices for turfgrass seed crops such as perennial ryegrass, creeping red fescue and tall fescue have risen in recent years to historical highs. Many of BrettYoung’s seed production contracts allow growers to lock in these high price levels and do not limit upside, which can really help add to a farm’s bottom line.

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SEED PRODUCTION SPECIALIST SERVICES

BrettYoung’s dedicated team of Seed Production Specialists spans Western Canada, with expertise in forage and turf seed production. From scouting and selection of production fields, fertility programs, pesticide and growth regulator recommendations, to swathing and harvest timing, and cover crop management, Seed Production Specialists are there every step of the way to help growers maximize returns. Since 2002, perennial ryegrass yields in Western Canada have increased 50% and efforts continue to improve seed yield and quality on all forage and turf species.

Planning
- Scouting and selection of production fields
- Selection of proper production species
- Recommendation on expected production practices
- Communication of contract terms

Seeding & Crop Development
- Delivery of seed stock
- Multiple field scouting visits
- Fertility recommendations
- Herbicide and fungicide recommendations

Crop Delivery
- Communication of delivery schedule
- Communication of crop quality analysis
- Communication of grower payments

Harvest
- Available for recommendations on harvest timing
- Available for recommendations on equipment settings
- Crop samples taken
- Post-harvest recommendations

The following pages outline key agronomic characteristics of selected species.

ALFALFA

Alfalfa is a long-lived, cool season, perennial legume. It is the most commonly grown forage legume used for livestock production in Western Canada.

Alfalfa seed production occurs throughout the prairies and is exported all over the world. It requires the use of leafcutter bees for adequate pollination.

Field Selection
Alfalfa is adapted to a wide range of soil conditions, but yields best in well drained soils. Starting with a clean field free of perennial weeds is very important. Glyphosate applications in the years preceding alfalfa will help eliminate perennial weeds. Shelter from the wind should be considered as this will benefit the bees during pollination.

Weed Control
Alfalfa’s low seeding rate and wide row spacing offer little competition to weeds. However, there are herbicides registered for use in alfalfa. Our Seed Production Specialists can help identify weed control options based on field conditions.

Seeding
Treat the alfalfa seed with a quality inoculant just prior to seeding. Seed alfalfa between 0.5 and 1 lb/acre in 24-inch to 36-inch rows. It can be seeded alone or with a cover crop. Flax or cereal crops are recommended as cover crops. Seed alfalfa no deeper than ½ inch into a firm, fine seedbed.

Disease Control
Alfalfa can be susceptible to leaf and stem diseases. Scout fields regularly to identify diseases and apply appropriate fungicide.

Pollination
Leafcutter bees are necessary for optimum seed set in alfalfa. Management of bees is very labour intensive and requires a substantial initial capital investment. Many seed growers use contract beekeeper services to pollinate the crop.

Harvesting
After pollination, alfalfa seed takes about five to six weeks to mature. Swathing can occur when most of the seed pods are black or brown in colour. Straight combining is a popular option because it helps reduce seed losses. In order to straight cut, the crop must be desiccated with an approved pesticide or by a hard frost. Ideal seed moisture is 10.5%.

Seed Yield
Alfalfa seed yields in Western Canada average 350 lbs/acre and can yield up to 1,000 lbs/acre. Geographic location and weather conditions during pollination have a significant impact on seed yield.
CLOVER

Clover species are short-lived perennial legumes that are produced in all parts of the prairies. They are used to grow good quality forage in both domestic and international livestock programs.

Clover is used in green-manure applications to help build nitrogen levels in the soil. The main species of clover grown for seed in Western Canada are red, sweet and alsike.

Field Selection
Clover should be established with a cover crop such as wheat, flax or oats. Canola is not recommended as a cover crop as volunteer seeds may germinate in the year of production causing concern with export regulations.

Clover yields best in well drained soils. When selecting fields it is important to review the herbicide history as chemical residues can affect germination. Select a field that is clean and free of perennial weeds such as Canada thistle.

Weed Control
Herbicides are available to control broadleaf and grassy weeds; however, options are limited. Once established, clover offers significant weed competition.

Seeding
Clover seed must be inoculated with the proper rhizobacteria. Conventional seeding equipment can be used. Clover must be seeded into a moist, firm seedbed. Recommended seeding rates range from 1 to 8 lbs/acre.

Pollination
Clover must be cross pollinated to produce seed. Consistent yields are obtained by introducing colonies of honeybees to the field. Native pollinators such as bumblebees also aid in seed production.

Harvesting
Clover can be either swathed or desiccated and straight combined. Seed can shatter easily, so proper harvest timing is critical. Seed can safely be stored at 11% moisture.

Seed Yield
Red Clover yields an average 275 lbs/acre and can yield up to 600 lbs/acre.
Alsike clover yields an average 400 lbs/acre and can yield up to 700 lbs/acre.
Sweet clover yields an average 300 lbs/acre and can yield up to 600 lbs/acre.

ANNUAL RYEGRASS

Annual ryegrass is planted in the spring and harvested in the fall with many of the same management practices as wheat. It grows well in most areas of Western Canada and can tolerate excess moisture. Annual ryegrass should be one of the first crops planted, preferably into a firm seedbed at about ½ inch deep.

Annual ryegrass is mainly used for annual hay or grazing applications, but it is also used for quick ground cover in some turf mixtures.

Field Selection
Annual ryegrass responds well to moisture and nitrogen. It is adapted to different soil types, ranging from light-textured sandy soils to heavy clay soils. It is important to select a clean field that is free of residual herbicides such as Treflan™ or Edge™.

Weed Control
Wild oats and quackgrass are the worst weed problems. Wild oats and other broadleaf weeds can be controlled with herbicides. There is no in-crop control for quackgrass.

Seeding
Conventional seeding equipment can be used. Air drills, air seeders, press drills and hoe drills all work well.

Harvesting
Annual ryegrass must be swathed. Days to maturity for annual ryegrass is comparable to spring wheat.

Annual ryegrass is usually harvested 7 to 10 days after cutting. Either conventional or rotary combines can be used. Annual ryegrass is considered dry at 11% moisture, but can be harvested at 14% and dried in an aeration bin. Heat cannot be used as it can affect germination.

Seed Yield
Annual ryegrass yields an average 1,200 lbs/acre and can yield up to 1,800 lbs/acre.

Residue
Straw residue can be an added bonus for cattle producers. It can be removed for livestock feed or bedding. Depending on fall moisture, regrowth can be used for fall grazing or hay.
Perennial ryegrass is a short-lived perennial grass with a shallow fibrous root system. It is a low-growing, bunch-type grass with short leafless stems. Perennial ryegrass is one of the most widely used grass species in the world. The main uses are for overseeding on golf courses in the southern United States, and in turfgrass mixes around the world.

Managed as a biennial crop, it is seeded one year and harvested the next, resulting in one year of seed production. It is typically underseeded with wheat, oats or barley.

Field Selection
Perennial ryegrass responds well to moisture and nitrogen. It is adapted to different soil types, ranging from light-textured sandy soils to heavy clay soils. The field must be free of residual herbicides such as Edge™, Treflan™ and others. It is important to review the herbicide history of the field before planting. As well, a field that has had glyphosate applications and is clean of quackgrass is essential.

Weed Control
Wild oats, cleavers and quackgrass are the worst weed problems. Wild oats, cleavers and other broadleaf weeds can be controlled with herbicides; however, there is no in-crop control for quackgrass.

Seed Yield
Perennial ryegrass produces an average yield of 850 lbs/acre net clean seed. Perennial ryegrass can yield up to 1,600 lbs/acre, attributable to proactive growing plans coupled with ideal growing conditions.

Harvesting
Perennial ryegrass must be swathed, usually in late July to early August. It is easier than most crops so it can help split up the harvest. Harvesting usually takes place about 7 days after cutting, depending on weather. Dry is 11% moisture, ryegrass can be harvested at 14% or 15% and dried in an aeration bin. Heat cannot be used as it can affect germination.

Parlay and Fertility Ramping Seed Yield Trial

These trials explored the effect that nitrogen ramping and Parlay application would have on lodging and seed yield in perennial ryegrass. In this trial there are two different fertility treatments: 120 N and 180 N, and 3 different Parlay treatments: 0.5L/ac, 0.7L/ac, and 1.0L/ac. Higher Parlay application rates resulted in greater seed yield and shorter plant height which significantly reduced lodging.

Source: Trial data collected from multiple test sites in Manitoba, courtesy of Marc Vincent, BScH., MSc., Research Manager with Manitoba Forage Seed Association.

Take Your Profits to the Next Level
Available exclusively from BrettYoung, Parlay® is a registered growth regulator for turf-type perennial ryegrass seed production—it decreases plant height and reduces the lodging that can rob growers of yield. Now you can experience easier harvest management and more profits for your farm!

Receive upfront discounts on Parlay when you contract seed production with BrettYoung.
TALL FESCUE

Tall fescue is a long-lived perennial grass with a deep root system. It is a cool-season bunch grass that adapts well on poorly drained soils. In addition, tall fescue can tolerate salinity, alkalinity and acidity. Tall fescue is widely used in turf markets, and its application on golf courses, athletic fields and as lawn grass has grown with improved tolerance to heat and drought.

Tall fescue needs one year to establish with no seed production in the year of planting. Expected seed production can range from three to five years. The crop is typically underseeded to flax or planted without a cover crop.

Field Selection
Tall fescue responds well to moisture and nitrogen. It is adapted to different soil types, ranging from light-textured sandy soils to heavy clay soils.

The field must be free of residual herbicides such as Edge™, Treflan™ and others. It is important to review the herbicide history of the field before planting. As well, a field that has had glyphosate applications and is clean of quackgrass is essential.

Weed Control
Wild oats, cleavers and quackgrass are the worst weed problems. The broadleaf weeds can be controlled with herbicides; however, there is no in-crop control for quackgrass.

Seeding
Tall fescue is seeded at 6 lbs/acre and conventional seeding equipment can be used.

Harvesting
Tall fescue must be swathed, usually in mid to late July. It is earlier than most crops, which can help split up the harvest. When swathing fescue, some shattering will occur; therefore, swathing at night or early in the morning is recommended.

Harvesting usually takes place about 5 to 7 days after cutting, depending on weather. Dry is 11% moisture, but fescue can be harvested at 14% or 15% and dried in an aeration bin. Heat cannot be used as it can affect germination.

Seed Yield
Tall fescue yields an average 700 lbs/acre and can yield up to 1,200 lbs/acre.
Creeping red fescue is a long-lived perennial but the seed production life of a stand is typically short, lasting one or two years. On rare occasions, a third year may be harvested.

Creeping red fescue seed is used for turf, forage and reclamation purposes. The largest end use is for amenity purposes like lawns, parks, fairways and playgrounds.

Field Selection
Creeping red fescue must be established in fields as free of perennial weeds and other volunteer grass crops as possible. It can be grown on a wide range of soil types including clay, loam and sandy loam soils when moisture is adequate. It tolerates soil acidity well and is somewhat tolerant to soil salinity.

Creeping red fescue tends to perform best in areas that receive high levels of precipitation, especially when the precipitation is received in the fall or early spring. It’s extremely important to review your past cropping history and herbicide use as creeping red fescue seedlings can be seriously injured by residues of herbicides applied in previous years.

Weed Control
Quackgrass, cleavers and wild oats are the most difficult weeds in creeping red fescue, but can be controlled by herbicides. There is a wide selection of herbicides to control most broadleaf and grassy weeds.

Seeding
Most conventional seeding equipment can be used. Seeding rates vary from 1 to 5 lbs/acre.

Harvesting
Swathing is typically the third or fourth week of July and is generally 20 to 30 days after pollination. Timing of swathing is field dependent and seed head stage should be monitored often to avoid swathing too early or too late. Seed moisture should be 12.5% or less before harvesting unless it is aerated without heat.

Seed Yield
Seed yields vary depending on the age of the field and moisture conditions. Creeping red fescue yields an average 500 lbs/acre and can yield up to 1,200 lbs/acre.
TIMOTHY

Timothy is a medium-lived, cool-season perennial bunchgrass with a fibrous root system. The crop performs very well under cool, moist conditions.

Timothy seed is used to grow high quality forages for domestic and international livestock programs.

Field Selection
Timothy is a low input crop that grows well on poorly drained, low producing soils. Timothy is fairly tolerant to flooding in the spring.

The field must be free of residual herbicides such as Edge™, Treflan™ and others. It is important to review the herbicide history of the field before planting. Glyphosate should be applied in the years prior to seeding to help eliminate perennial weeds.

Weed Control
Herbicides are available to control broadleaf weeds. However, there are few herbicide choices available for controlling wild oats and green foxtail. Once established timothy provides significant weed competition.

Seeding
Timothy is a very small seed that must be sown shallow into a firm seedbed. Cover crops such as wheat, oats and flax may be used. Generally, timothy is seeded at 2 lbs/acre.

Harvesting
Timothy must be swath cut, usually in early August. It is earlier than most crops, which can help split up the harvest. Harvesting takes place about 5 to 7 days after cutting, depending on weather. Timothy is considered dry at 10% moisture, but it can be harvested at 14% or 15% and dried in an aeration bin. Heat cannot be used as it can affect germination.

Seed Yield
Timothy yields an average 350 lbs/acs and can yield up to 600 lbs/acre.

Residue
Timothy straw must be removed from the field at harvest. The straw has relatively good feed value for livestock.

NATIVE GRASSES

There is an increasing interest in the use of native plants by government agencies, municipalities, industry representatives and the general public across Canada. The current use of native species is variable, while their value in reclaiming disturbances, restorations and maintaining biodiversity has gained recognition.

BrettYoung actively participates in the seed production of native species through our Western Canadian grower network. We own Canada’s largest privately held seed laboratory, where our lab technicians are specifically trained and certified to work with our native species product line. If you are interested in producing native seeds, contact your local Seed Production Specialist to learn about production opportunities in your area.

List of species:

- Alkaligrass
- Bluegrass
- Bromegrass
- Clover
- Dryland
- Fescue
- Vetch
- Wheatland
- Wildrye
- Others
Contact BrettYoung for more information.

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