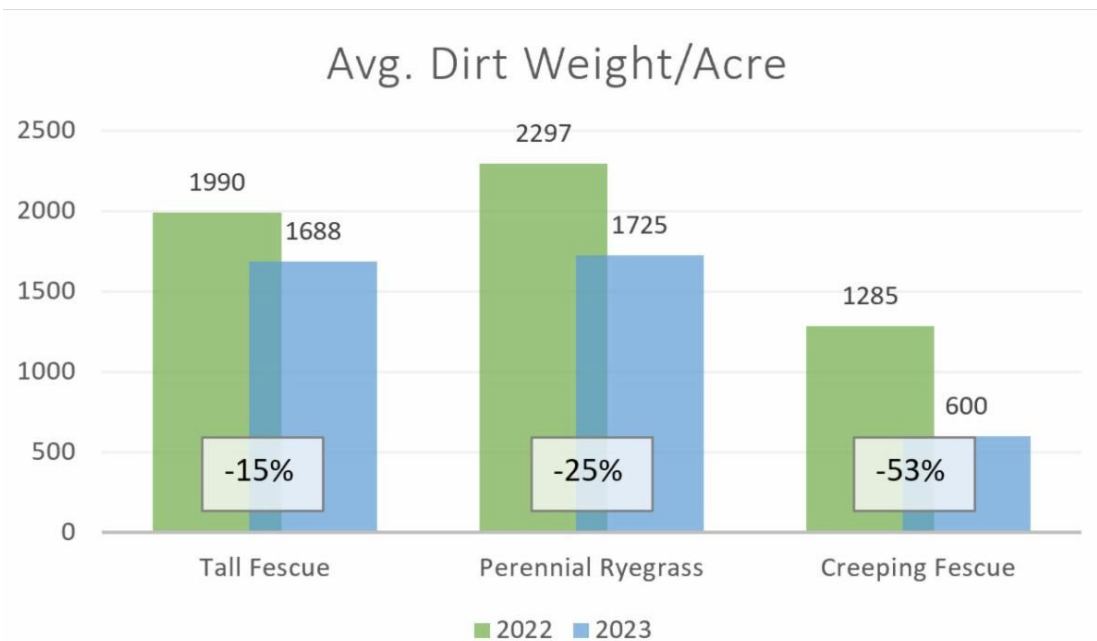




With harvest underway we wanted to share what we are seeing with you. The Willamette Valley has forever been the grass seed capital of the world thanks in large part to mild winters, ample spring precipitation and timely summer rains. Unfortunately, like many others in the west, we are experiencing a drought and its continued effects on crops. This season has been hampered by a very dry spring. We averaged 2.56 inches of precipitation across the state, that is more than 5 inches below normal. This lack of rain hampers yields but also damages new seedings. Some producers are reporting a 50% loss of spring planted acres. We are seeing major declines in the average dirt weight/acre on all species being delivered to our cleaner. Below you can see the difference in this year's average of each species versus 2022. Continue reading for a more detailed report and we hope this timely information helps you and your business.

Thank you for your continued support of Mountain View Seeds.



**Perennial Ryegrass** – about 30% of the acres are irrigated and those acres are yielding close to average. But the other 70% of the acres (unirrigated) are off an estimated 30% or more depending on soil conditions. Minnesota harvest has just begun - growers are expecting yields to be off 10% or more. Acres of PRG have been reduced and the acres across the region are expected to be down 30% or more.

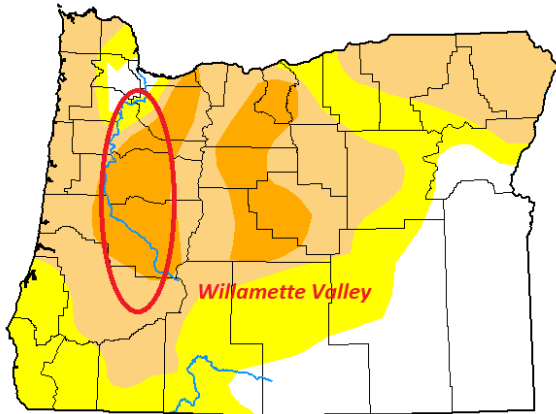
**Tall Fescue** – overall, it’s holding up better than other crops due to deeper rooted plants that better tolerate the dry spring. The dry spring caused us to lose new seedings so acres will be down again for 2024. Tall Fescue in the valley seems to be on both ends of the spectrum. Some 2500 lb. yields and some 1000 lb. yields. Across the state, yields appear to be trending towards a 10% reduction.

**Kentucky Bluegrass** – both irrigated and dryland production regions are reporting yields down 20%. Dryland KBG had a tough time establishing new acres and lost many new seedings. Acres are expected to be down up to 40% for next year. Columbia Basin irrigated KBG: 15 -20% off avg. Madras production is reporting average yields.

**Fine Fescue** – crops are off significantly. We estimate yields will be off 40-50%. The majority of fine fescue is dryland, so the dry spring impacted yields more than some other crops. The dry spring also caused us to lose new seedings so acres will be down this next year. Many of the local growers outside of the Pratum processing facility are getting dirt weights of 400-1000 lbs. I would expect to see higher cleanouts compared to average due to the dry spring which often produces lighter seed. The Creeping Red Fescue crop in Canada does not look good at all.

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Oregon**

**July 18, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 20, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|   | None  | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4   |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Current                                 | 24.39 | 75.61 | 48.76 | 12.60 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Last Week<br>07-11-2023                 | 23.21 | 76.79 | 48.76 | 12.60 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago<br>04-18-2023              | 16.91 | 83.09 | 56.44 | 23.63 | 6.20  | 0.00 |
| Start of<br>Calendar Year<br>01-03-2023 | 13.46 | 86.54 | 59.75 | 46.03 | 26.18 | 1.40 |
| Start of<br>Water Year<br>09-27-2022    | 0.42  | 99.58 | 68.05 | 52.42 | 30.73 | 1.40 |
| One Year Ago<br>07-19-2022              | 24.60 | 75.40 | 66.42 | 52.76 | 31.72 | 1.77 |

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Orange)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)      D3 Extreme Drought (Red)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

