

TALL FESCUE SEED SOUTHERN STATES

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TALL FESCUE SEED CROP IN SOUTHERN STATES DOWN 27 PERCENT

The 1979 production of tall fescue seed in the six Southern States is forecast at 115 million pounds (52.3 thousand metric tons), down 27 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest this year is 406 thousand acres (164 thousand hectares), 27 percent below 1978. Yield per acre is expected to average 283 pounds, down 2 pounds from last year.

Production in the Nation's leading tall fescue producing State, Missouri, is forecast at 93.0 million pounds, down 25 percent from a year ago. The lower acreage harvested for seed in each of the six States largely reflects the weak demand for fescue seed this spring.

TALL FESCUE SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD PER ACRE, PRODUCTION 1977, 1978, AND 1979

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1977	1978	1979 1/	1977	1978	1979 1/	1977	1978	1979 1/
	ACRES			POUNDS			1,000 POUNDS		
ALA 2/	4,000			130			520		
ARK	17,000	25,500	18,000	290	310	305	4,930	7,905	5,490
GA	10,000	14,000	8,000	205	210	230	2,050	2,940	1,840
KANS	30,000	37,000	26,000	150	200	200	4,500	7,400	5,200
KY	21,000	42,000	30,000	190	270	230	3,990	11,340	6,900
MO	349,000	415,000	310,000	235	300	300	82,015	124,500	93,000
S C 2/	6,000			170			1,020		
TENN	13,000	23,000	13,800	190	200	200	2,470	4,600	2,760
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	450,000	556,500	405,800	226	285	283	101,495	158,685	115,190

1/ INDICATED. 2/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER THE 1977 CROP.

