

TALL FESCUE SEED SOUTHERN STATES

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SOUTHERN STATES TALL FESCUE SEED CROP UP ONE-THIRD

The 1981 production of tall fescue seed in six southern States is forecast at 91.3 million pounds (41.4 thousand metric tons). This is 32 percent above last year's short crop but 2 percent below the 1979 crop. Acreage for harvest climbed 23 percent to 369 thousand acres (149 thousand hectares). Yields are expected to average 247 pounds per acre, almost midway between last year and the year before.

Production in Missouri is forecast at 74.0 million pounds, up 34 percent from last year but rainy weather has held up harvest in all areas of the State. Spring weather in Georgia was favorable for grass seed production but harvest competed with a much larger than usual wheat crop and some acreage intended for seed may not have been cut. In Kentucky and Tennessee, May and June rains slowed crop progress and placed a very heavy workload on farmers during normal harvest time for tall fescue seed. Arkansas and Kansas growers have diverted some of their seed acreage to hay. Excessive rains, wind and hail in Kansas contributed to the acreage decline.

TALL FESCUE SEED (SOUTHERN STATES)

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD			: PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1979	1980	1981 ^{1/}	1979	1980	1981 ^{1/}	1979	1980	1981 ^{1/}
	ACRES			POUNDS			1,000 POUNDS		
ARK	14,000	13,000	11,000	295	260	270	4,130	3,380	2,970
GA	11,000	10,000	11,000	220	215	220	2,420	2,150	2,420
KANS	27,000	17,000	13,000	225	150	150	6,075	2,550	1,950
KY	17,000	20,000	32,000	220	190	230	3,740	3,800	7,360
MO	265,000	230,000	290,000	280	240	255	74,200	55,200	73,950
TENN	10,000	11,000	12,000	240	200	220	2,400	2,200	2,640
TOTAL									
ABOVE STS:	344,000	301,000	369,000	270	230	247	92,965	69,280	91,290

^{1/} INDICATED.

