

**NORTHERN MINNESOTA GRASS SEED GROWERS
NEWSLETTER
MAY 28, 2008**

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

At this time last year, the rain that fell over Memorial Day weekend ranged from an inch to over 4 inches north of Baudette. Our rainfall this year has only been around 1 inch. Short term forecast is predicting more rain, which will be needed as most everything is now planted and awaiting some warmth and sunshine. Overall, most of the grass crops are looking excellent.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Field spaying in ryegrass is beginning this week.

It is a little too early yet, but every two weeks during the growing season, the progress of rust is detailed in a publication titled: Cereal Rust Bulletin. This publication is available at www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/cdl.

The three links below are pest updates from the U of MN and the MN Dept of Ag. These reports are updated regularly during the summer months. The first link is for vegetable crops, second link is the MN Dept of Ag Pest Survey and the third is a crop report from the U of MN in Crookston.

<http://www.vegedge.umn.edu/mnfruit&vegnews/Vol4/vol4n1.htm>

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/pestsurvey.htm>

http://nwroc.umn.edu/Cropping_Issues/croppingissues.htm

For folks who are interested in our local soil temps, rainfall, etc..., the NDAWN weather stations are an excellent source of information. Soil temps are going up, but slowly. Soil temp is 54 degrees this week.

Go to the site, and click on the weather station location nearest to your farm.

<http://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/>

Ryegrass Growing Degree Days (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD units have been tracked since the 2005 season. A base temp of 32 degrees F has been used for ryegrass (T-Base =32 F). The GDD information presented in the table below is year to date data through and including May 24th for the years 2005 to 2008.

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	08 vs. 07
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March	6	90	53	35	-84
April	202	322	529	448	-120
May 1-24	349	568	506	479	-219
Total	557	980	1,088	962	-423

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -423 behind the 2007, -531 behind 2006 and -405 behind 2005.

One indicator of how cool the 2008 season has been we are now in the last week of May and the Lilac's have yet to bloom. In most years, Lilac's are in full bloom by Memorial Day. The short term outlook has for daytime highs in the 70' and lows in the high 40's. If this holds true we may finally accumulate some GDD.

Spring seeded ryegrass is in the one node stage. Fall seeded ryegrass is still in the vegetative stage of growth. Palisade timing could be at the end of the week on spring seeded ryegrass.

Early bluegrass varieties, e.g. Park and Minnifine, are jointing and may be in the boot stage by the end of the week. Mildew is typically the first disease to show up in the spring. In last three years the onset of mildew infestations has corresponded to the accumulation of approximately 650 GDD. If environmental conditions are favorable for mildew, and mildew tracks as in previous years, we may begin to see mildew in the next few days. Field scouting will determine the actual incidence of pest outbreaks.