

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER**  
**June 2, 2009**

**RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)**

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2009 growing season with comparisons to the last three years. A base temp of 32 degrees F will be used for ryegrass (T-Base =32 F). The GDD information presented in the table below is year to date data through and including May 31 for 2006 to 2009.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>09 vs. 08</b>
March	30	6	90	53	+24
April	247	202	322	529	+45
May 1-31	515	501	746	730	+14
Total	792	709	1,158	1,312	+83

The 2009 season is 83 GDD ahead of 2008, but -366 and -520 GDD behind the 2007 and 2006 seasons, respectively. The average GDD/day in the month of May was 16.2, 24.1 and 23.6 for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. How does 2009 compare? The accumulated GDD/day in May of 2009 was 16.6/day.

The dandelions were in full bloom over the weekend. Flowering crab trees are finally beginning to boom. However, Lilacs have yet to bloom.

Canada thistles have emerged and are growing well. Foxtails species have germinated and will soon have one leaf.

**GENERAL CROP CONDITION**

**Ryegrass**

Ryegrass seeded last spring is 5 to 8 inches tall compared to fall seeded ryegrass which is 1 to 4 inches tall. This year the difference in growth between spring and fall seeded ryegrass is more than in previous years. Spring seeded ryegrass is in the jointing stage, while fall seeded ryegrass is still vegetative.

**Bluegrass**

The 'Park' and 'Minnfine' bluegrass fields are in the boot to early heading stage. These two bluegrass varieties are the first bluegrass varieties to head. We will see many bluegrass fields headed by the end of the week.

**PEST MANAGEMENT**

**Ryegrass**

Weed control operations in ryegrass should be scheduled. Most weed species have emerged and will enter a rapid growth phase. Dicamba and 2, 4-D are the workhorses for broadleaf weed control in ryegrass. Product rates range from 0.5 to 1 pint depending upon weed size and species. Ryegrass is very tolerant of these two products. However, small plants generally are easier to control than large plants. Weeds grow fast and regular scouting is essential to determine the best weed control program for your situation.

Assure II can be used for grass control in “herbicide tolerant” ryegrass. **Do not use** crop oil as a spray additive with Assure II as significant ryegrass injury may result. A non-ionic surfactant is the additive of choice for Assure II in ryegrass.

### Bluegrass

Mildew was detected in sheltered areas late last week. Infestation levels were very low (only a few spots on the leaves). Mildew can “flare” in a few days if environmental conditions are favorable. Favorable conditions for mildew are day time temps in the low 70’s and dew in the evenings and mornings. Field scouting will determine the severity of disease and the need for a fungicide application for disease control.

Many fungicides have activity on powdery mildew in bluegrass. However, Tilt appears to be the product of choice for mildew control in bluegrass. Product rates of 2 to 4 oz have been used successfully in previous years. Keep in mind the higher use rate will offer extended period of disease control.

## **CROP MANAGEMENT**

### Ryegrass

If ryegrass fields have not been fertilized, schedule this operation as soon as the field conditions allow. It is important to get the fertilizer applied so it has time to get into the root zone prior to the rapid growth stages of late tillering into jointing.

This week many of the spring seeded ryegrass fields will be in the one to two node stage. If Palisade is to be applied as a growth regulator, this week will be the time to get this product applied to spring seeded ryegrass. Fall seeded ryegrass is still in the vegetative stage. Field scouting will determine when ryegrass is in the two node stage.

### Bluegrass

Scout fields for mildew.

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on June 9, 2009.