

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER**  
**June 9, 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 June 7 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	515	501	746	730	+14
June 1-7	136	174	193	244	-38
Total	928	883	1,351	1,556	+45

The 2009 season is 45 GDD ahead of 2008, but -423 and -628 GDD behind the 2007 and 2006 seasons, respectively. The average GDD/day in the first week of June was 24.8, 27.6 and 34.9 for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. How does 2009 compare? The accumulated GDD/day in first week of June of 2009 was 19.4/day.

Many people look to the lilacs in bloom as a sign of spring. Well it's has been a long time coming, but over the weekend the lilacs finally began to bloom in Roseau County. The 2008 season was a cool year and the 2009 season is shaping up to just as cool. In fact, the first week of June of 2009 was -38 GDD behind the first week in June of 2008.

On Saturday night, June 6, temperatures below freezing were recorded in many areas. Temperatures in the high 20's were reported on many areas. It is hard to determine what effect, if any, these low temperatures have on bluegrass varieties that are heading. Sometimes the tips of the bluegrass may turn white or, the bluegrass panicle will have a hard time emerging from the boot. We won't know the full extent of any damage until harvest.

**GENERAL CROP CONDITION**

Ryegrass

In many area fields, ryegrass seeded last spring is beginning grow over the top of wheat stubble. Spring seeded ryegrass is in the jointing stage (2 to 3 nodes). Fall seeded ryegrass rages from vegetative to early jointing.

Bluegrass

The 'Park' and 'Minnfine' bluegrass fields are in the early heading stage. These two bluegrass varieties are the first bluegrass varieties to head. We will see many bluegrass fields fully headed out 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.

Puma is used for grass control on non-tolerant ryegrass varieties and 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. However, mildew has yet to be identified in production fields. The unseasonable cool temperatures and several nights without dew are environmental factors that do not favor the development and spread of mildew. Keep in mind that 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**

Certified seed fields must have a field inspection and have field isolation strips cut. To schedule a field inspection contact your seed fieldman or the Minnesota Crop Improvement. Try and cut Isolation strips before bluegrass and ryegrass begin to shed pollen.

### **Ryegrass**

The two growth regulators used in ryegrass are Palisade and Apogee. Palisade at 1 pint/A should be applied to ryegrass that 1 to 2 nodes. Apogee has a wider window of application and can be applied to ryegrass from jointing to full head extension. Apogee rate of 6 to 8oz/A is applied with surfactant and 28% nitrogen.

### **Bluegrass**

Scout fields for mildew.

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on June 16, 2009.