

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER**  
**June 16, 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 14 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 1-14	303	347	447	440	-44
Total	1095	1056	1,605	1,752	+39

The 2009 season is 39 GDD ahead of 2008, but -510 and -657 GDD behind the 2007 and 2006 seasons, respectively. The average GDD/day in the first two weeks of June was 24.8, 31.9 and 31.4 for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. How does 2009 compare? The accumulated GDD/day in first two weeks of June in 2009 was 21.6/day.

The mosquito's came out in full force over the weekend. We finally have had several days in a row with high temps in the mid-70's. Crops and weeds will enter a rapid growth phase with daytime temps in the 70's and low temps in the high 40's. If fields have not been looked at for several weeks, now would be a good time to assess crop condition, weeds and the presence of other pest.

**GENERAL CROP CONDITION**

**Ryegrass**

Spring seeded ryegrass fields are in the late boot to early heading stage. Spring seeded ryegrass and early seeded (August) are overtopping the wheat stubble. Fall seeded ryegrass ranges from vegetative to early jointing.

**Bluegrass**

The 'Park' and 'Minnfine' bluegrass fields are heading stage. Look for pollen shed to begin in the "Minnfine" bluegrass in the next few days. The 'Park' bluegrass fields will begin to shed pollen a few days after 'Minnfine'.

**PEST MANAGEMENT**

**Ryegrass**

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.

Some ryegrass fields have rouged for off type plants. It is important to control weeds in the field and not run these plants through the combine. Roundup through a wand (spot spraying), or through a rope wick have been successfully used to control off type plants in ryegrass.

### Ryegrass

Spring seeded ryegrass is beginning to head. This is a good time to apply Apogee as a growth regulator in ryegrass. Apogee use rate is rate 6 to 8oz/A and should be applied with surfactant and 28% nitrogen.

### Bluegrass

Scout fields for mildew.

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on June 23, 2009.