

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER**  
**June 23, 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 21 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 1-21	558	558	666	687	0
Total	1,350	1,267	1,824	1,999	+83

The 2009 season is 83 GDD ahead of 2008, but -474 and -649 GDD behind the 2007 and 2006 seasons, respectively. The average GDD/day in the first three weeks of June was 26.6, 31.7 and 32.7 for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. How does 2009 compare? The accumulated GDD/day in first three weeks of June in 2009 was 26.6/day.

Last week was the first warm week we have had all year and resulted in an accumulated 255 GDD or an average of 36.4/day!!

**SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR**

The annual grass seed field tour has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 1. Field tour will begin at 4:00 pm at a bluegrass field of Brian and Sheldon Rice. The field is located approximately one mile west of the Magnusson Research Farm on Hwy 16. Residue management, fertility rate and timing, fungicides and growth regulator research in bluegrass can be viewed at this stop.

The grass seed tour will move to the Magnusson Research Farm for a 5:00pm start. Directions to this research site: From the intersection of Hwy 11 and 89 travel approximately 2 miles north on Hwy 310. Turn left (west) off Hwy 310 onto Roseau County 16 and travel for approximately 3 miles. The Magnusson Research Farm is located on the north side of Hwy 16. Bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue variety trials will be included at this stop. In addition, weed control research in bluegrass and ryegrass, fertility rate and timing in ryegrass, ryegrass date of planting, cool season and other biomass research will be included on this tour.

**GENERAL CROP CONDITION**

**Ryegrass**

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

**Bluegrass**

The 'Park' and 'Minnfine' bluegrass fields are shedding pollen. Late bluegrass varieties are in the early heading stage.

## **PEST MANAGEMENT**

We have soon accumulated enough GDD for grasshoppers. Grasshoppers prefer the grassy areas on the edges of fields or the reduced tillage (wheat stubble) in ryegrass fields. Scout these areas grasshopper emergence.

### **Ryegrass**

Leaf and stem rust can be a serious disease in ryegrass. The USDA tracks the movement of rust spores from south to north each year and prints a Cereal Rust Bulletin. As of June, 10 rust spores have been detected into northern Iowa. Barberry is an alternate host to stem rust. Rust spores were observed at a nursery in St. Paul. How long will it be until rust spores make it to northern Minnesota?

Environmental conditions and southerly winds will determine the prevalence and severity of rust in ryegrass.

In the last three years, leaf and stem rust have been detected in ryegrass after the accumulation of approximately, 1,950 GDD. To date, in 2009, we have accumulated 1,350 GDD. If we average 35 GDD/day we should begin to see leaf and stem rust in 17 days. Field scouting will determine the actual incidence of leaf and stem rust in ryegrass.

Next weeks newsletter will have a discussion of fungicide choices in ryegrass.

### **Bluegrass**

On average, bluegrass is swathed approximately 3 weeks after pollen shed. If this holds, bluegrass will be swathed the second week of July. Environmental conditions between now and swathing will determine how fast the bluegrass crop matures. Warmer than average temperatures will hasten the maturation in bluegrass, while, cool weather will slow the maturation process.

## **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 headed. 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**

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on June 30, 2009.