

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER**  
**June 30, 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 28 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 1-28	805	800	926	903	+5
Total	1,597	1,509	2,084	2,215	+88

The 2009 season is 88 GDD ahead of 2008, but -487 and -618 GDD behind the 2007 and 2006 seasons, respectively. The average GDD/day in the first three weeks of June was 28.6, 33.1 and 32.3 for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. How does 2009 compare? The accumulated GDD/day in first four weeks of June in 2009 was 28.8/day.

In the last two weeks we have accumulated 502 GDD or an average of 35.9/day. The short term weather forecast has for temperatures to moderate. That should be good news for the bluegrass crop which is in the late pollination to seed filling period.

**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**

The spring seeded ryegrass is just beginning to shed pollen. Ryegrass pollen is typically shed in mid-morning and in times of heavy pollen shed, pollen dust clouds look similar to dust off of gravel roads.

Fall seeded ryegrass ranges from vegetative to early heading.

### Bluegrass

The 'Park' and 'Minnfine' bluegrass fields, for the most part, are in the seed filling stage. Late bluegrass varieties are in the heading stage.

## **PEST MANAGEMENT**

### Ryegrass

Leaf and stem rust can be a serious disease in ryegrass. Leaf and stem rust has been detected in susceptible wheat varieties in Douglas County (Alexandria) in Minnesota and near Carrington, North Dakota. 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 1,597 GDD. If we average 35 GDD/day we should begin to see leaf and stem rust in 10 days. Field scouting will determine the actual incidence of leaf and stem rust in ryegrass.

Leaf and stem rust that infects ryegrass is carried into our area on southerly winds. Rust infection and spread is most likely with daily high temperatures in the mid-70's and lows in the 60's. Rust also requires free water on the leaf surface. We usually have dew on the grass until mid-morning in the summer and many days have temperatures that fit into the ideal range for rust development.

Several fungicides are effective for rust control in ryegrass. Talk to your agronomist or seed field man for information on fungicides that have successfully been used in your area.

### 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**

Some ryegrass fields have been 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 July 7, 2009.