

MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER
July 28, 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 July 26 for 2006 to 2009.

Year	2009	2008	2007	2006	09 vs. 08
March	30	6	90	53	+24
April	247	202	322	529	+45
May	515	501	746	730	+14
June	860	870	990	943	-10
July 1-26	794	856	950	1003	-62
Total	2,446	2,435	3,098	3,258	+11

The 2009 season is 11 GDD ahead of 2008, but -652 and -812 GDD behind the 2007 and 2006 seasons, respectively. The average GDD/day for the first 26 days of July was 32.9, 36.5 and 38.6 for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. How does 2009 compare? The accumulated GDD/day in first 26 days of July in 2009 was 30.5/day.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass

Fall seeded ryegrass ranges from early heading to pollen shed. Spring seeded ryegrass is now in the seed filling stage. The fall seeded ryegrass stands are variable, with some fully headed and others that range from headed to vegetative. This range in ryegrass maturity will make it difficult make a determination on when to swath.

Bluegrass

Most of the 'Park' and 'Minnfine' bluegrass fields have been harvested.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Leaf and stem rust have been detected in ryegrass in Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties. To date, rust infestations have been light and variable.

With confirmed rust in ryegrass, the two primary strategies for rust control in ryegrass would be:

- 1) Spray a fungicide as soon as it can be scheduled or,
- 2) Scout ryegrass fields for rust every two- to- three days as in favorable environmental conditions rust can increase rapidly and this fungal pathogen can "explode" in just a few days

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. However, if rust is present it will be important to choose a fungicide that has curative properties. Quilt and tilt will provide some curative

activity and will be the products of choice for rust control at this point of the season. Quilt rates from 8 to 10 oz/A have been successfully used in ryegrass. The higher rate will provide a few more days protection, and the 10 oz rate will protect the head and flag leaf for three to four weeks.

CROP MANAGEMENT

With the bluegrass harvest almost complete the next step in bluegrass production is burning. A good burn is one of the CRITICAL steps in bluegrass management. A good burn sets the stage for seed production for the next season. Relative humidity levels in the 40's or lower tend to promote a clean burn of bluegrass straw.

Remember to get a burning permit and it's always a good idea to give your neighbors a "heads up" when you plan to burn. One of the first reactions to smoke in the neighborhood is a house or building fire. A phone call or two prior to burning will ease some of this anxiety.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RESEARCH

Rust Collection

Cristal Cisneros, a graduate student in St. Paul, is working on ryegrass rust as a part of her graduate studies. She would like to gather ryegrass rust samples from the ryegrass growing counties of northwest Minnesota. If you have, or know of ryegrass plants that have rust, contact your agronomist, seeds man or send a reply by e-mail and arrangements will be made to get these samples to St. Paul.

Ryegrass date of planting trial

The second date of a ryegrass date of planting has been seeded at the Magnusson Research Farm. Seedings will continue every two weeks until October. Ryegrass planting rates are 5 and 8 pounds with wheat at 20#/A.

Ryegrass starter fertilizer trial

This trial was seeded last week at the Magnusson Research Farm. Trial objective is to evaluate ryegrass seed tolerance and ryegrass seedling growth with and without starter fertilizer. Starter fertilizers are important in other crop (wheat, corn and sunflowers). This trial will help determine the response of ryegrass to a starter fertilizer. This starter fertilizer may increase the fall growth rate and/or improve winter survivability of ryegrass.

Herbicide tolerance study: In response to the concern that many of you have expressed over the herbicide resistant wild oat problem, Don Wyse from the University of Minnesota is initiating studies to better understand the issue. The first study is focused on fields where producers have observed little or no control of wild oat populations following herbicide treatments for two years or more. If you have a field where wild oat is not being controlled with current herbicide treatments please call Dave Grafstrom (218 463 1071) or email Dave.Grafstrom@northlandcollege.edu to set up a time for him to come out to your farm and collect wild oat seed samples from the field. The wild oat populations will then be evaluated for resistance to selected herbicides in St. Paul. Each producer will receive a summary of the results from the evaluation of their wild oat populations and the information will be kept confidential.

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on August 4, 2009.