

MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER
May 4, 2010

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2010 growing season with comparisons to the last four years. A base temp of 32 degrees F will be used for ryegrass (T-Base =32 F). The GDD information presented in Table 1 is for March to May in 2006 - 2009 and March, April and May 1 & 2 in 2010.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March -May in 2006 - 2009 and March, April & May 1&2 in 2010 at Roseau MN.

Year	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2010 vs. 09
March	137	30	6	90	53	+107
April	476	247	202	322	529	+229
May		515	501	746	730	
May 1&2	28					
Total	641	792	709	1,158	1,312	

The 2010 season has been warm. In fact, the National Weather Service Office in Grand Forks, ND recorded the average temperature in April at 49.7 degrees. This is more than six degrees above normal. This was the fourth warmest April on record at the Grand Forks International Airport.

Rainfall at the end of last week ranged from just over an inch to over an inch and one half. This rainfall was ideal for the grass seed and spring seeded crops. The short term weather forecast is for a continued chance of rain for most of the week.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass

Ryegrass fields continue to look great! Ryegrass plants made it through the winter very well and the warm weather has the ryegrass crop in the vegetative to early tillering stage of growth.

Bluegrass

The bluegrass fields are beginning to green up and will soon begin to joint. Bluegrass fields during early jointing have a ragged look to them. This ragged look is especially noticeable with the variety 'Park'.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Field pennycress, shepardspurse and other winter annuals are bolting. NOW is the time to spray these weeds to prevent seed production. Take some time to scout ryegrass fields and make note which fields will require a broadleaf treatment and be ready when the weather give us a break.

Fields sprayed with Callisto have a bleached look to them. Thus far, it appears the volunteer wheat control from Callisto is holding quite well. The recent rain may stimulate the volunteer wheat to tiller. Additional time is needed to fully assess the level of control volunteer wheat control from Callisto.

Bluegrass

If Beacon is to be used for weed control in bluegrass it should be applied prior to joining. In addition, previous research suggests that in dry conditions Beacon can cause injury to the bluegrass crop. If Beacon is planned this year, use caution as the 2010 season has been one of the driest springs on record. Beacon use rate is 0.38 oz/A, and should be used with a non-ionic surfactant.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

The following data is from herbicides treatments applied in July of 2009 to spring wheat under seeded with ryegrass at the Magnusson research farm. Data is ryegrass stand evaluations taken in April of 2010.

HERBICIDE*	ADDITIVE	% RYEGRASS STAND
Assert 1.2 pints/A	Surfactant 0.25%	95
Achieve 8 oz/A	Supercharge 0.25% + 28% N 2.5%	92
Puma 8 oz/A	None	93
Silverado 2 oz/A	MSO 1.5 pint/A	67
Express 0.3oz/A + 2,4-D ester 0.75Pint/A	None	90
Avenge 3 pints/A	Surfactant 0.25%	95
Bronate 0.75 pint/A	None	95
Assert 0.75 pint/A + Avenge 2 pints/A	Surfactant 0.25%	90

*Bronate at 0.75 pints/A was tank mixed with all treatments, except Express + 2, 4-D and Bronate alone.

The above data suggests Silverado caused a reduction in ryegrass stand the year after treatment. All other treatments gave similar ryegrass stands compared to Bronate alone. The ryegrass in these treatments will be harvested this year to determine differences in seed yield.

It appears the 2010 season may be a good year for wild oats as many wheat fields have emerged wild oats. Avenge was included in the above trial to evaluate the ryegrass response. Avenge is a potential choice for wild oat control if the field has a history of resistant wild oats.

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on May 11, 2010.