

MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER
May 11, 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 - 9 in 2010.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March -May in 2006 - 2009 and March, April & May 1-9 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 1-9	98					
Total	711	792	709	1,158	1,312	

What a difference we have seen in the weather in May compared to the last couple of weeks in April. The last two weeks in April we accumulated over 20 GDD/day. This compares to only 10 GDD/day for the first full week of May. The short term forecast has a change of rain for most of the week.

Jack Frost had his brush out several times last week. Freezing temperatures were recorded on four mornings last week and two of these days had recorded temperatures lower than 28 F.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass

Ryegrass fields are in the late vegetative to tillering stage of growth. The next major stage of growth in ryegrass is the jointing. The jointing stage is when ryegrass begins to push nodes above ground. The main stem of ryegrass usually has three to four nodes above ground prior to heading.

Bluegrass

The recent rainfall has made a big difference in area bluegrass fields. Bluegrass fields are in the jointing stages and look for a few bluegrass heads to appear this week.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Field pennycress, shepardspurse and other winter annuals are bolting and are forming seed heads. 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

In the last three years, the first mildew was observed in sheltered areas after the accumulation of approximately 650 GDD. Thus far in 2009, we have accumulated 711 GDD. Mildew HAS BEEN observed in sheltered areas in turf and at low levels at the Magnusson Research Farm. Mildew is a disease that can move from low levels to wide spread infections in a matter of a few days. Field scouting a couple of days/week will determine the level of mildew infection and if a control measure is needed.

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/A have been used successfully in previous years. Keep in mind the higher use rate will offer extended period of disease control.

If Beacon is to be used for weed control in bluegrass it should be applied prior to jointing. Bluegrass is jointing. If Beacon is to be used it MUST be applied this week as bluegrass is jointing and will begin to produce seed heads later this week.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Additive choice can make a difference in weed control and crop injury. The following data was taken from research conducted in 2008 at the Magnusson Research Farm.

Herbicide*	Additive	Plant Height inches	Ryegrass Yield in #/A
Assure II 10oz/A	Surfactant 0.25%	25	1100
Assure II 10oz/A	Crop Oil 1.0%	23	740

*Banvel + 2, 4-D (3/4 +3/4 pint/A) was applied as a separate application.

The above data suggests Assure II with crop oil as an additive has the potential to cause injury to ryegrass. This data indicates that crop oil as an additive with Assure II resulted in a reduction in ryegrass seed yield of 360 pounds compared to Assure II applied with a surfactant.

Bluegrass

Capsid bug, at times, can be a problem in bluegrass. The emergence of this insect corresponds to the time when lilac's are in bloom. More on this next week.

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on May 18, 2010.