

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER**  
**June 1, 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 - 30 in 2010.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March - May in 2006 - 2009 and March, April & May 1-30 in 2010 at Roseau MN.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010 vs. 09</b>
March	137	30	6	90	53	+107
April	476	247	202	322	529	+229
May		515	501	746	730	
May 1-30	681					
Total	1,294	792	709	1,158	1,312	

Last week we accumulated an average of 30.1 GDD/day. The short term forecast is for daytime highs in the mid 60's to low 70's. Showers are in the forecast for the weekend. The recent rains have delayed spraying operations. Plant growth and development (crops and weeds) will proceed at a rapid pace now that we are into the long days of June.

**GENERAL CROP CONDITION**

Ryegrass

Seed heads are visible in many area ryegrass fields especially, the spring seeded ryegrass and ryegrass seeded in August. Ryegrass fields seeded in September of 2009 will have visible heads begin to appear later this week.

Bluegrass

Bluegrass fields are shedding pollen. Bluegrass usually sheds pollen early in the morning and can give the appearance of a fog rolling over the field.

**PEST MANAGEMENT**

Ryegrass

The USDA-ARS tracks rust development and movement from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern plain states. As of May 26, aecial infections were observed on barberry plants in southern Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. Barberry is an alternate host for stem and stripe rusts. For additional information see the link below for The Cereal Rust Bulletin. The link to this site:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/cdl>

Bluegrass

Mildew has been observed in bluegrass fields. Mildew can flare in a few days with moisture or heavy dews. Recent conditions have been favorable for mildew and field scouting will determine the incidence and level of mildew infection.

## **CROP MANAGEMENT**

### **Ryegrass**

Growth regulator applications in ryegrass may begin later this week. Apogee at 6 oz/A has given consistent performance. Always use a surfactant and 28% nitrogen with Apogee. Apogee has a wide window of application (see Table 2 below). The recent rains and has contributed to the potential for rank growth in ryegrass and Apogee is effective in the reduction of ryegrass height.

Table 2. Late Growth Regulator applications alone and in combination with Fungicides applied to “Inspire” perennial ryegrass in Roseau County (Rice Farms) in 2006.

<b>Treatment*</b>	<b>Rate (oz/A)</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Ryegrass Yield (#/Acre)</b>	<b>Plant Height (inches)</b>
Headline	8	Pollen shed	1175	28
Apogee	15	Full Flag	1142	23
Headline	8	Full Flag	1065	28
Apo + Headline	15 + 8	Full Flag	1059	22
Apo + Headline	15 + 8	Pollen Shed	1059	24
Untreated	None	None	1026	28
Apogee	15	Pollen Shed	1011	24
LSD (5%)			NS	1.5

\* All Apogee treatments had surfactant at 0.25% v/v and 28% nitrogen at 2 qts/A added to the spray solution.

This trial was conducted in 2006 to determine the influence of growth regulator and fungicides applied to perennial ryegrass at full flag and pollen shed. To maximize the potential for ryegrass injury a 2 x product rates were evaluated in this trial. The first application was applied to ryegrass in the full flag leaf stage and the second application was applied to ryegrass that was shedding pollen. Observations from this trial:

- Disease pressure was light at this location
- Ryegrass yields were over 1,000 pounds from all treatments and not statistically different from the untreated
- All Apogee timings reduced ryegrass plant height compared to the untreated
- Ryegrass injury was not observed from Headline and Apogee applied to ryegrass in the full flag or at pollen shed

Grass Seed Research Results are now available on the web. Research reports from 1967 to the present are available at the web address below.

[http://www.mnturfseed.org/html/progress\\_reports.html](http://www.mnturfseed.org/html/progress_reports.html)

## **SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR**

Mark your calendar, the annual grass seed field tour has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 23. Tour will begin at 5:00 pm. More details will follow in future newsletters.

The next edition of this newsletter will be released on June 8, 2010.