MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER
August 10, 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 March to July in 2006 - 2009 and March, April, May, June, July and August 1-8 in 2010.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March - July in 2006 - 2009 and March, April, May, June, July and August 1-8 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	707	515	501	746	730	+192
June	911	860	870	990	943	+51
July	1174	943	1,034	1,156	1,206	+231
Aug 1-8	302					
Total	3,707	2,595	2,613	3,304	3,461	

Last week we accumulated an average of 37.5 GDD/day. The majority of the ryegrass has been harvested and growers have now begun to harvest wheat and canola. This will be the last GDD report for the 2010 season.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass

The majority of the ryegrass fields have been harvested. For the most part seed yields have been above average.

Bluegrass

Bluegrass fields that have been burned are "greening up" and growing well. However, broadleaf weeds are also growing well. Historically, the first two weeks in September has been a good time to control broadleaf weeds in bluegrass. The 2010 season has been early, and as a result field spraying may occur in late August. Field scouting will determine the optimum time for herbicide applications in bluegrass.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Ryegrass seeded this spring with wheat looks good. As spring wheat is harvested we can now see leaf rust in spring seeded ryegrass. Previous research has NOT shown a benefit from a fungicide application at this time of the year. The fungicide applications are effective in rust control. However, no yield advantage or difference in rust infections have been observed in the summer following fall treated or untreated plots. To date leaf and stem rust that infects ryegrass has not overwintered in northern Minnesota and spores that cause infections must blow up from the southern parts of the United States each season.

RYEGRASS SEED STORAGE MANAGEMENT

With the extended wet and rainy period after ryegrass swathing the moisture content of the seed is, on average higher than previous years. Previous experience has indicated that ryegrass seed moisture must be less than 11% for good seed viability and storage. Problems have been reported if seed is put in the bin at over 11% moisture and natural air to remove moisture from the ryegrass seed.

Make sure to monitor moisture content of ryegrass seed in storage and be prepared to move seed quickly due to elevated seed moisture or hot spots in the bin.

This is the last edition of the summer newsletter for 2010.