

Ryegrass Growing Degree Days (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD units have been tracked since the 2005 season. A base temp of 32 degrees F has been used for ryegrass (T-Base =32 F). The GDD information presented in the table below is year to date data through and including April 30 for the years 2005 to 2008.

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	08 vs. 07
March	6	90	53	35	-84
April	202	322	529	448	-120
Total	208	412	582	483	-204

As of April 30th the 2008 season has started out colder than any year since 2005. In fact, reports from Lake of the Woods indicate that ice may still be on the lake for the opening of fishing. The last time ice was on the main lake for the fishing opener was 1996.

The 2008 season is 204 GDD behind 2007 and 374 GDD behind 2006 season. Typically, mildew in bluegrass is the first disease of the season. In the last three years, mildew infestations have corresponded to the accumulation of approximately 650 GDD. How close will the 2008 season compare to the previous years? Field scouting will determine the actual incidence of pest outbreaks.