

### **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 May 17<sup>th</sup> for the years 2005 to 2008.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>08 vs. 07</b>
March	6	90	53	35	-84
April	202	322	529	448	-120
May 1-17	221	398	328	286	-177
Total	429	810	910	769	-381

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -381 behind the 2007, -481 behind 2006 and -340 behind 2005.

Due to the low number of accumulated GDD, bluegrass and ryegrass are still in the vegetative to tillering stage of growth. Bluegrass may begin jointing stage by week's end, with ryegrass jointing to follow the following week.

Mildew is typically the first disease to show up in the spring. In last three years, mildew infestations have corresponded to the accumulation of approximately 650 GDD. If the daily high temps in the low 70's and night time lows in the high 30's, daily accumulation will be approximately 20 GDD/day. If environmental conditions are favorable for mildew, and mildew tracks as in previous years we should begin to see mildew at the end of this week or the following week. Field scouting will determine the actual incidence of pest outbreaks.