

## **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 31<sup>st</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 1-31	508	746	749	641	-238
Total	716	1,158	1,331	1,124	-442

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -442 behind the 2007, -615 behind 2006 and -408 behind 2005.

One indicator of how cool the 2008 season has been we are now into June and the Lilac's have yet to bloom, flowering crabs and plums are beginning to bloom. In most years, Lilac's are in full bloom by Memorial Day.

Mildew in bluegrass was detected in Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties late last week. GDD model predicted potential mildew infection at 650 to 750 GDD. It appears the current GDD model works well for mildew. Thus far in 2008, mildew infestations are light (just a white spot on a few leaves). However, mildew can "flare" in a few days if environmental conditions are favorable. Field scouting will determine the severity of pest outbreaks and the need for an application of a fungicide for disease control.

Early bluegrass varieties, e.g. Park and Minnifine, are in the boot to early heading stage. Later maturing varieties are still vegetative.

Spring seeded ryegrass timing is right for Palisade growth regulator. Fall seeded ryegrass is still in the vegetative stage of growth. Palisade timing could be at the end of the week on spring seeded ryegrass.