

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 June 14th, 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
May	508	746	749	641	-238
June 1-14	347	447	456	417	-100
Total	1,063	1,605	1,787	1,541	-542

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -542 behind the 2007, -724 behind 2006 and -478 behind 2005.

Early bluegrass varieties, e.g. Park and Minnfine, are headed and will soon shed pollen. Later maturing varieties are in the vegetative to early heading stage.

Spring seeded ryegrass has four nodes and is in boot stage. Fall seeded ryegrass (August 07 seeding) 3 nodes and in boot stage. Look for ryegrass to begin heading this week.