

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 21, 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 1-21	558	666	699	676	-108
Total	1,274	1,824	2,030	1,800	-550

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -550 behind the 2007, -756 behind 2006 and -526 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **18.5 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **18.8 days**. Short term forecast suggests that we may accumulate heat units this week.

Heavy pollen shed observed in Park bluegrass over the weekend. Pollen shed in 2007 was light. The observed heavy pollen shed in 2008 should not be a limiting factor to yield. Bluegrass generally is swathed in two to three weeks after pollen shed.

Spring and fall seeded ryegrass is in the heading stage. Pollen shed is the next stage after heading. Ryegrass typically sheds pollen in the mid-morning. At times it can look like dust blowing from vehicles driving on gravel roads.

We soon have accumulated enough heat units for crown rust and grasshoppers. Check ryegrass fields for grasshoppers. It seems grasshoppers like the stubble of spring seeded and no till fall seeded ryegrass into wheat stubble. Crown rust can overwinter in our area and is usually occurs in isolated ryegrass field. Leaf and stem rust is more wide-spread and has the potential to cause more damage than crown rust in ryegrass. Leaf and stem rust generally shows up a week or so later than crown rust.