

### 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 28, 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	508	746	749	641	-238
June 1-28	800	926	925	933	-126
Total	1,516	2,084	2,256	2,057	-568

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -568 behind the 2007, -740 behind 2006 and -541 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **18.8 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **18.6 days** behind the three year average. Short term forecast suggests that we may accumulate heat units this week.

Spring and fall seeded ryegrass is in the heading stage. Look for pollen shed in ryegrass to begin later in the week. Ryegrass typically sheds pollen in the mid-morning. At times it can look like dust blowing from vehicles driving on gravel roads.

Based on previous year's data 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 fields. Leaf and stem rust tends to be 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.