

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 July 5, 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	800	926	925	933	-126
July 1-5	163	188	172	164	-25
Total	1,749	2,337	2,517	2,274	-588

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -588 behind the 2007, -768 behind 2006 and -521 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **18.6 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **19.0 days** behind the three year average.

Spring and fall seeded ryegrass are heading and shedding pollen. Ryegrass typically sheds pollen in the mid-morning. At times it can look like dust blowing from vehicles driving on gravel roads.

Continue to scout for grasshoppers as they like the stubble of spring seeded and no till fall seeded ryegrass into wheat stubble. Last week several fields were sprayed.

Check ryegrass fields for rust. We have soon accumulated enough GDD for leaf and stem rust. In 2006 & 2007, leaf and stem rusts were detected at approximately, 1950 GDD. The model would suggest that rust may be in the area later this week. Field scouting will determine actual presence of this disease and the level of infection.