

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 12, 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	870	991	1014	986	-121
July 1-12	375	423	459	475	-48
Total	1,961	2,572	2,804	2,585	-611

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -611 behind the 2007, -843 behind 2006 and -624 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **19.0 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **22.1 days** behind the three year average.

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

Check ryegrass fields for rust. Trace rust levels spotted in the Red Lake Falls area last week. In 2006 & 2007, leaf and stem rusts were detected at approximately, 1950 GDD. Field scouting will determine actual presence of this disease and the level of infection.