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 19, 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 1-19	600	647	751	752	-47
Total	2,186	2,796	3,096	2,862	-610

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -610 behind the 2007, -910 behind 2006 and -676 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **22.1 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **19.4 days** behind the three year average.

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

Rust has been observed in area ryegrass fields. The GDD model predicted rust at the accumulation of approximately 1950 GDD. Actual first rust was observed at approximately 2050 GDD.

Check ryegrass fields for rust. Field scouting will determine actual presence of this disease and the level of infection.