

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 August 2 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	1,029	1,149	1,245	1,155	-120
August 1-2	69	71	75	96	-2
Total	2,684	3,369	3,665	3,361	-685

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -685 behind the 2007, -981 behind 2006 and -667 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **19.8 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **19.9 days** behind the three year average.

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.

The 2007 season has finally accumulated enough GDD for plant maturity. Look for swathers to be rolling in area ryegrass fields this week.