

### 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 9, 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	870	991	1014	986	-121
July	1,029	1,149	1,245	1,155	-120
August 1-9	305	316	323	358	-11
Total	2,920	3,614	3,913	3,623	-694

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -694 behind the 2007, -993 behind 2006 and -703 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **19.9 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **21.6 days** behind the three year average.

The 2007 season has finally accumulated enough GDD for plant maturity. Ryegrass swathing began last week and will continue this week.

This will be the last GDD report for the 2008 harvested ryegrass crop. Fall seeded ryegrass will be seeded in mid-August and into September. GDD will be followed for fall seeded ryegrass as it will give an indication of plant growth stage as it goes into winter which may be correlated to winter survivability.