

MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
August 4, 2020

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

As of July 31, 2020 accumulated GDD was 2,987 (Table 1). July of 2020 accumulated more GDD of any July in the last six years. Historically, after the accumulation of 3,000 GDD the majority of the ryegrass has been swathed. The 2020 season is following this trend as the majority of the ryegrass fields have been swathed. Field yet to be swathed are those that had crown damage last fall, or this spring.

Table 1. Growing Degree Days (GDD), March - July 2014 to March - July 2020 near Roseau MN.

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2019 vs. 2020
March	30	0	0	90	38	119	0	+30
April	183	211	184	458	263	367	159	-28
May	600	548	815	679	765	659	654	+52
June	995	919	1,007	917	945	941	964	+76
July	1,179	1,067	1,100	1,095	1,123	1,147	1,066	+112
Total	2,987	2,745	3,106	3,239	3,134	3,233	2,843	

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Last week was a busy one for ryegrass swathing and harvesting which will continue this week. Remember it's important to get air moving through ryegrass seed in storage to cool the seed down and get the seed moisture to 10-11% range for long term storage.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Wheat harvest is right around the corner and one of the first steps in a successful ryegrass crop in 2021 is a uniform spread of straw from the back of the combine. A little bit of time to adjust the straw spread will pay dividends in a more uniform ryegrass stand. If baling the straw, chaff spreaders will distribute fines out the back of the combine. Even if the plan is to harrow the straw, it's still worth the time to get a uniform spread of wheat straw and fines from the back of the combine.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Late season rust has been observed in area ryegrass fields and in new seeded ryegrass underseeded with wheat. Previous research with late summer control of rust after wheat harvest didn't have any impact of rust the following season as crown and stem rust doesn't overwinter in northern MN and is blown into the area each summer on southerly winds.

This will be the last weekly ryegrass newsletter for the 2020 season