

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
May 27, 2014**

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2014 growing season with comparisons to the previous five years. A base temperature of 32 degrees F will be used for ryegrass (T-Base =32 F). Reported GDD are based on the total accumulation from the beginning of the year to the current calendar date. Thus far in 2014, we have accumulated 512 GDD as of May 25th (Table1). The seven day forecast is for warm weather as projected GDD is 36/day, which is 10 GDD/day higher than average! Average accumulated GDD for the last week of May is 25.3/day. The short term forecast for the week points to the warmest temperatures of the year with a 7 day projected GDD's of 252. Based on this forecast, accumulated GDD for the year will be 730 by the end of May. Look for ryegrass to begin jointing by the end of the weekend and into next week.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March, April & May in 2009-2014, near Roseau MN.

| Year | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2014 vs. 13 |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| March | 0 | 0 | 304 | 7 | 137 | 30 | 0 |
| April | 159 [^] | 80 | 370 | 278 | 476 | 247 | -2 |
| May 1-25 | 434 | 640 | 726 | 639 | 707 | 515 | |
| May 26-31* | 218 | | | | | | |
| Total** | 730 | 720 | 1,400 | 924 | 1,320 | 792 | |

[^] -78 GDD after majority of snow drifts melted

* - Forecasted GDD at Roseau for the next 6 days

** - Total includes projected GDD to the end of May

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Last week was a busy week for application of fertilizer in ryegrass and will continue this week. Rainfall amounts on Saturday and over the weekend ranged from a couple tenths to over three inches! With the warm temperatures and good soil moisture perennial ryegrass will enter a period of very rapid growth. Perennial ryegrass, for the most part, is in the tillering stage of growth. The next critical stage of growth in ryegrass is jointing. Look for ryegrass plants to begin jointing in early June.

Wild oats in tilled ground have emerged as have common lambsquarters, wild buckwheat and wild mustard. Winter annuals are bolting. If broadleaf herbicides were not applied last fall, now would be the time to scout ryegrass fields to determine the infestation level of winter annuals, perennial broadleaf weeds (dock, dandelion, clovers) and cool season broadleaf weeds (wild mustard, wild buckwheat, common lambsquarters, smartweeds).

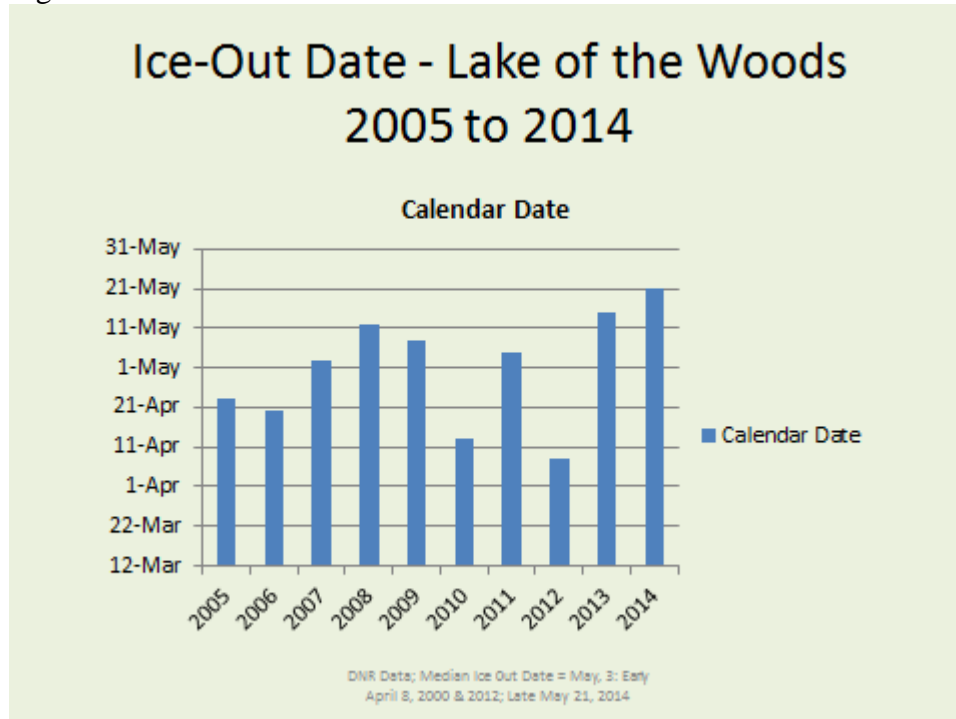
CROP MANAGEMENT

Dicamba and 2, 4-D are the most common products for broadleaf weed control in perennial ryegrass seed production. Product rates range from 0.5 to 1 pint depending upon weed size and species. Ryegrass is very tolerant to these two products. Due to the cool spring, plant growth in general, has been slow and weeds have followed this trend. However, with the recent warm up, dandelions are in full flower and shepardspurse is bolting. Weeds grow fast, especially when temperatures raise into the high 70's to low 80's. Field scouting is essential to determine the best weed control program and timing of herbicide application for your situation.

LAKE of the WOODS – ICE-OUT DATE

The date when lakes are free of ice (ice-out date) is an indication of the “earliness” or “lateness” of spring. The 2014 season has set new cold weather records in many parts of the county. Ice-out dates were delayed for many lakes in Minnesota and Lake of the Woods is no exception! The May 21st ice-out date is the latest date in recent recorded history according to MN DNR records. The data in Figure 1 lists the ice-out dates on Lake of the Woods for the last ten years. The median ice-out date for Lake of the Woods is May 3rd. The earliest ice-out date is April 8th which was recorded in 2000 and again in 2012. Latest ice-out date is May 21st 2014.

Figure 1. Ice-Out Date for Lake of the Woods from 2005 to 2014.



U of MN Siehl Prize

Last week, Richard Magnusson was awarded with the Siehl Prize for excellence in Agriculture. Richard is an active member of the MN Turf Council and has been involved in the grass seed industry for many years. Richard, congratulations to you and your family on this well-deserved award for excellence in production agriculture.

SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 24th for the annual grass seed summer tour to be held at the U of MN Magnusson Research Farm, six miles northwest of Roseau, MN.

Next week’s newsletter will be released on June 3, 2014.