

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER  
June 11, 2013**

**RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)**

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2013 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 calendar year to the current calendar date. Thus far in 2013, we have accumulated 940 GDD as of June 9th (Table1). Last week, accumulated GDD were 183 (26.1/day). Based on the current 7 day forecast, accumulated GDD will be 227 (32.4/day) by this weekend. If this forecast holds by the third weekend in June we will have accumulated approximately 1,167 GDD's for the current calendar year.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March 2008 to June 2013 near Roseau MN.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2013 vs. 12</b>
March	0	304	7	137	30	6	-304
April	80	370	278	476	247	202	-594
May	640	726	639	707	515	501	-86
June		979	898	911	860	870	
June 1-9	220						
Total	940	2,379	1,822	2,231	1,652	1,579	
June 10-16*	227*						
Total	1,167*						

\* Forecasted GDD at Roseau for the next 7 days.

**SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR**

The annual grass seed field tour has been scheduled for 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at the U of MN Magnusson Research Farm. Directions to the Magnusson Research Farm: from the intersection of Hwy 11 and 89 travel approximately 2 miles north on Hwy 310, turn left (west) off Hwy 310 onto Roseau County 16 and for approximately 3 miles. The farm is located on the north side of Roseau County highway #16. Bluegrass, ryegrass, and fescue variety trials will be included on the tour. In addition to grass seed variety trial research, various management trials in perennial ryegrass including; fertility rate and timing in ryegrass, growth regulators, fungicides foliar nitrogen and other research will be included on this tour.

**GENERAL CROP CONDITION**

**Isolation strips for grass seed crops**

Now is the time to cut isolation strips in certified grass seed crops. The following information comes from Kris Folland with MCIA. If you have questions or concerns please talk to your grass seed fieldman, seed conditioner or Kris with MCIA.

Bluegrass isolations, as they have been in the past, require a 15' strip for certified seed when bordering other varieties of bluegrass.

For certified perennial ryegrass seed, a 165' isolation strip is required when bordering other varieties of ryegrass. Flags can be placed as a method of isolation at harvest time.

## **CROP MANAGEMENT**

### **Ryegrass**

Ryegrass fields seeded in the spring of 2012 are jointing and many area ryegrass fields are, or will be, soon taller than the wheat stubble. Ryegrass fields seeded in the late summer of 2012 exhibit more variable growth stage and plant height compared to spring seeded ryegrass. Late summer established ryegrass stands are delayed in growth and development compared to spring seeded ryegrass. However, with the projected forecast for warm temperatures ryegrass will enter a rapid growth phase. Regular field scouting will be especially important this year to schedule management decisions based on ryegrass stage of growth.

In spring seeded ryegrass the next major growth stage is heading. Ryegrass head expression has been observed in the most mature ryegrass plants in a field. Look for more ryegrass plant to head this week. With ryegrass heading right around the corner, it's time to schedule an application of Apogee growth regulator. To keep ryegrass from lodging, it may take an Apogee rate of 6 to 8 oz. /acre, especially if plant available nitrogen is over 120 pounds/A.

The amount of biomass produced by ryegrass plants can vary from year to year. In 2012 ryegrass biomass production was less than 2011. The rate of Apogee required to regulate ryegrass growth will be more in a year of lush ryegrass growth (biomass) than years of more 'thin line' ryegrass growth. In 2012 the dry weather was one of the factors that reduced the amount of ryegrass biomass growth and as a result, required less Apogee to regulate ryegrass growth compared to ryegrass with more lush growth. It appears ryegrass biomass production in 2013 will be more than 2012, and may require an Apogee rate on the higher end of the rate range in order to regulate ryegrass growth.

### **General guidelines for Apogee in perennial ryegrass:**

- The onset of heading (10%) is a good benchmark to begin Apogee application in ryegrass
- Spring planted ryegrass with moderate to high fertility, good stands and deep green color should receive an Apogee rate of 6 to 8 oz./A with the 8 oz. rate a good benchmark
- Fall planted ryegrass usually has less growth compared to spring seeded ryegrass and usually will require 2 to 3 oz./A less Apogee than spring seeded ryegrass
- Always use a nonionic surfactant and nitrogen source with Apogee. No differences in Apogee performance have been observed with 28% or AMS
- The timing of grass herbicides and Apogee may not be ideal as the grass herbicides (Assure II in tolerant ryegrass and Tecoma in non-tolerant) should be applied prior to ryegrass heading. Tank mixes of grass herbicides and Apogee have been successfully used in ryegrass however, separate applications have provides more consistent results
- U of MN research has not detected reduced performance when mixing fungicides with Apogee plant growth regulator.

Grass Seed Research Results are available on the web. Research reports from 1967 to the present are available at the web address below.

[http://www.mnturfseed.org/html/progress\\_reports.html](http://www.mnturfseed.org/html/progress_reports.html)

Next week's newsletter will be released on June 18, 2013.