

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
June 23, 2014**

SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR

The annual summer grass seed field tour sponsored by the U of MN and MN Turf Council has been scheduled for 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 24th 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, growth regulators, fungicides, foliar nitrogen and other research will be included on this tour.

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. To date in 2014, we have accumulated 1,412 GDD as of June 22nd (Table1).

The ten day forecast for the Roseau area projects average high and low temperatures of 74 and 58 F, respectively. Based on this forecast, accumulated GDD for the year will be 1,656 by the weekend. Spring seeded ryegrass fields are heading stage and are beginning to shed pollen.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March to June, near Roseau, MN in 2009-2014.

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	654	640	726	639	707	515	+14
June 1-22	680						
June 23-29*	244						
June		975	979	898	911	860	
Total**	1,656	1,695	2,379	1,822	2,231	1,579	

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

* - Forecasted GDD at Roseau for the next 7 days

** - Total includes projected GDD to June 29

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass fields seeded in the spring of 2013 are heading and are beginning to flower. Ryegrass typically sheds pollen in mid-morning and ryegrass pollen clouds look similar to the dust from vehicles when driving on gravel roads. Ryegrass sheds pollen generally after the dew lifts for the day and will continue for a couple of hours in the mid-morning.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Insects

The recent warm weather and the emergence of mosquitos is a good reminder that insect infestations can occur quickly and regular field scouting is required to identify the insect pest, determine insect infestation and economic threshold levels. Army worms and grasshoppers are two insect pests that can cause damage to area ryegrass fields. As would be expected, the most likely areas to find armyworms are in lodged areas and grasshoppers in field edges of ryegrass fields.

Threshold levels

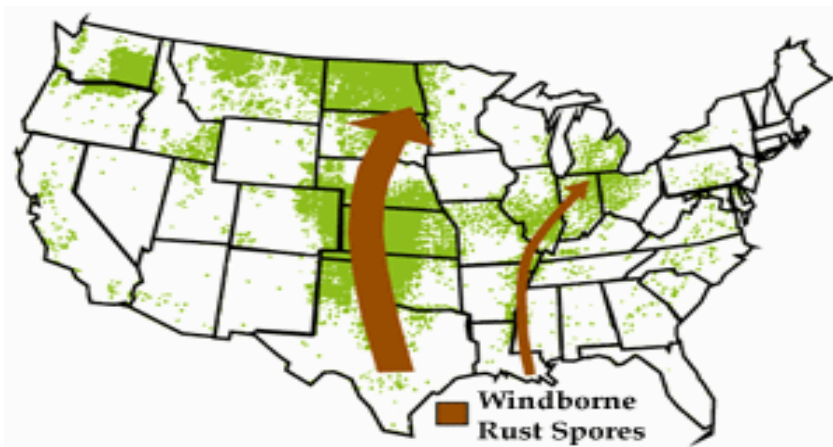
Grasshoppers can be a problem in grass seed crop. Action thresholds for grasshopper nymphs are 30-45/square yard (6 to 8 adults or 25% defoliation) if grass is vegetative and insect feeding is on the leaf tissue. Threshold levels will be lower if insect feeding is on the seed head. Field scouting will determine the infestation level and the type of feeding.

The economic threshold for armyworms has not been established for ryegrass. However, in wheat, the action level is 4 or more larvae/square foot. Armyworms feed at night and hide under vegetation or in loose soil during the day. Armyworms moths tend to lay eggs in lodged areas of the fields and these areas should be first place to check for armyworms.

Rust in ryegrass

The USDA-ARS tracks rust development and movement north from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern plain states. The graphic below is from the USDA web site and illustrated the movement of rust from south to north in the United States. This movement of rust has been termed the Puccinia Pathway. On June 18, a single rust pustule was found in a winter wheat nursery in St. Paul, MN. Field scouting will continue to monitor and track the progress of rust as it moves northward. For additional information see the link below for The Cereal Rust Bulletin. The link to this site:

(<http://www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/cdl>)



The next newsletter will be released July 1, 2014.