

**NORTHERN MINNESOTA GRASS SEED GROWERS
NEWSLETTER
June 11, 2012**

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2012 growing season with comparisons to the last five years. A base temperature of 32 degrees F will be used for ryegrass (T-Base = 32 F).

For the week ending June 10th, accumulated GDD was 256 (36.5/day), and for the year accumulated GDD is 1,738 (Table 1). The new 10 day forecast predicts an average high temperature of 76 degrees and an average low of 57 degrees. The early part of the week is projected to be cooler than average with a warm-up later in the week. With the recent rain, ryegrass growth will proceed at a rapid rate.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March and April from 2007 - 2012 near Roseau MN.

Year	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2012 vs. 11
March	304	7	137	30	6	90	+297
April	370	278	476	247	202	322	+92
May	726	639	707	515	501	746	+87
June		898	911	860	870	990	
June 1-3	338						
Total	1,738	1,822	2,231	1,652	1,579	2,148	

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass

Area ryegrass fields are in the heading stage. Pollen shed will begin late this week or next week and will continue for several weeks. 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.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Traces of wheat leaf rust were found in spring wheat spreader rows at Rosemount Experiment Station May 25. In the first week of June, leaf rust was also found at low levels in a spring wheat field near Barrett in west-central Minnesota. The USDA-ARS publishes a Cereal Rust Bulletin every two weeks during the growing season. This bulletin tracks the progression of rust from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern plains. The link to this site:

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

Many ryegrass growers include a fungicide when making an application of a growth regulator (Apogee). These fungicides will provide two to three weeks disease protection. Last week and the week prior was the most common timing for an application of Apogee. In previous years, leaf and stem rust has been detected at approximately 1,900 GDD. With temperatures like last week we may see the first pustules of leaf and stem rust in a week. Field scouting will determine the presence of rust spores. A rust alert will be sent IF rust spores are detected in area ryegrass fields.

A review of in-season rust control strategies will be included in next week's newsletter.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Several reports came in last week of wild oat escapes in ryegrass. Causes for these wild oat escapes include:

- Late emergence of wild oat
- Possible Acc-ase resistant wild oat
- Poor control due to cool environmental conditions this spring

The question is what can be done at this time? The data in Table 2 is from research conducted in 2011 at two on-farm locations in Roseau County (Kraig Lee and Amundson Brothers). Results suggest that Avenge can give good wild oat control applied up to ryegrass that is 50% headed without ryegrass seed reductions.

Table 2. 'Arctic Green' perennial ryegrass tolerance and wild oat control to various herbicides applied at two locations in Roseau County in 2011.

<u>Herbicide[^]</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>'Arctic Green' Seed Yield in Pounds/Acre</u>			<u>Wild Oat</u>
		<u>Lee</u>	<u>Amundson</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Control*</u>
Assure II	10 oz	1409	1098	1253	8.5
Assert	1.2 pt	1186	812	999	6.0
Avenge	3 pt	1378	1204	1291	8.5
Callisto	6 oz	1338	1280	1309	3.5
Untreated	0	1414	1191	1302	1.0
LSD (0.05)		NS	437	288	3.1

*Rating on a 1 to 9 scale where 1 = no control and 9 = complete control

[^]Herbicides applied to 8-24 inch ryegrass on 6-9-11 at the Kraig Lee location (2-3 node) and to 14-18 inch ryegrass on 6-21-11 at the Amundson Brothers location (ryegrass 50% headed).

SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR

The annual grass seed field tour has been scheduled for 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 27th at the 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 16. Bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue variety trials will be included on the tour. In addition, weed control research in bluegrass and ryegrass, fertility rate and timing in ryegrass, ryegrass date of planting, ryegrass growth regulators and fungicides and other research will be included on this tour.

The next Grass Seed Newsletter will be released on June 18, 2012.