

NORTHERN MINNESOTA GRASS SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER June 17, 2008

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Drying and Warming!

This week saw our June rains subside and temperatures near 80 finally arrive.

A wise grower noted that the cool conditions after the wet start to June was a blessing, as it helped to keep the water oxygenated, and may have prevented large drown-out spots. Warm weather will help out tremendously now that the standing water has subsided.

Ryegrass

Reports around the area have the ryegrass fields looking exceptional.

Ryegrass is in the boot to early heading stages of development.

At this time last year, spring seeded ryegrass plants were shedding pollen.



Bluegrass

Most early variety fields are beginning to shed pollen and should be in full pollination by the weekend.





PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

Most ryegrass fields have been sprayed for weed control.

No reports of rust from anywhere in the region this week.

In 2006, leaf and stem rust were first detected in area fields on 6/16/06.

Ryegrass fields are being monitored for rust. Field scouting will determine when rust **first** appears in ryegrass fields. What does rust look like? The first link is leaf rust in wheat.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9915>. The second is for stem rust in wheat.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9910>. The third is for crown rust in oats

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9919>. Rust in ryegrass looks similar to rust in cereals.

In 2006, it was documented that ryegrass was susceptible to both leaf and stem rust and crown rust. If you see reddish spots on ryegrass leaves please notify your agronomist. Suspected rust samples will be sent to the Cereal Rust Lab in St. Paul for positive identification.

Every two weeks during the growing season, the progress of rust is detailed in a publication titled: Cereal Rust Bulletin. This publication is available at www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/cdl.

The three links below are pest updates from the U of MN and the MN Dept of Ag. These reports are updated regularly during the summer months. The first link is for vegetable crops, second link is the MN Dept of Ag Pest Survey and the third is a crop report from the U of MN in Crookston.

<http://www.vegedge.umn.edu/mnfruit&vegnews/Vol4/vol4n1.htm>

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/pestsurvey.htm>

http://nwroc.umn.edu/Cropping_Issues/croppingissues.htm

CROP MANAGEMENT

Bluegrass

With the weather warming up, we should be past powdery mildew. Keep monitoring fields if the temperatures turn cooler.

Ryegrass

Wild Oat Control

Last week, we recommended Puma to combat the wild oats and green foxtail and reduce the cleanout percentages at the processing facility. The new question is how to combat Puma resistant wild oats (resistant to ACCase inhibitors)?

Will get that answer next week.

Growth Regulators

As we approach heading in ryegrass, the question is how long can we still apply growth regulators and still be effective?

We should be able to see significant stem shortening if application of growth regulator is made within 7 days of the field beginning to head out. Speak with your agronomist for recommendations.

Ryegrass Growing Degree Days (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD units have been tracked since the 2005 season. A base temp of 32 degrees F has been used for ryegrass (T-Base =32 F). The GDD information presented in the table below is year to date data, through and including June 14th, for the years 2005 to 2008.

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	08 vs. 07
March	6	90	53	35	-84
April	202	322	529	448	-120

May	508	746	749	641	-238
June 1-14	347	447	456	417	-100
Total	1,063	1,605	1,787	1,541	-542

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -542 behind the 2007, -724 behind 2006 and -478 behind 2005.

Early bluegrass varieties, e.g. Park and Minnfine, are headed and beginning to shed pollen. Later maturing varieties are in the vegetative to early heading stage.

Spring seeded ryegrass has four nodes and is in boot stage. Fall seeded ryegrass (August 07 seeding) 3 nodes and in boot stage. Look for ryegrass to begin heading this week.

SUMMER FIELD DAY **Tuesday, July 1st, 2008**

The annual Forage and Grass Seed Tour will be held on Tuesday July 1, 2008. The field tour will begin at 5:00pm at the U of Minnesota - Magnusson Research Farm which is located northwest of Roseau.

Speakers to include:

Donn Vellekson, Nancy Jo Ehlke & Don Wyse; U of M Research on Grass Seed Production
 Betsy Kurcinka; Nitrogen Mgmt in Kentucky Bluegrass/Perennial Ryegrass
 Maggie Mangan; Native Plant Polyculture Biomass Production
 Peter Gillitzer; Dedicated Herbaceous and Woody Biomass Crop Production
 Derek Crompton; Hail Study in Bluegrass and Ryegrass

EARLY TOUR: Tour South of Malung *starts at 4:00 p.m.*

To reach the plot go 1.5 miles south of Co Rd 4 ("Malung road"). Then travel 2.0 miles east. Plot is on north side of gravel road.

REGULAR TOUR: Tour North of Roseau *starts at 5:00 p.m.*

To reach the plot, go 1 mile north at the junction of Hwy 11 and 310 in the city of Roseau. Then travel 1.5 miles west (Dinner will be provided by Cenex West Plant, Roseau)

The next edition of the newsletter is scheduled to be released on June 24, 2008.

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