

NORTHERN MINNESOTA GRASS SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER June 24, 2008

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Drying and Warming!

This week saw 80 degree high stay for the long run, and cool nights in the 50's. The majority of crops have appreciated both the heat and sun, while still having plenty of soil moisture to fill seed heads.

Ryegrass

At this time last year, the majority of ryegrass fields were finished with shedding pollen. We still have yet to see that stage in any fields at this time in 2008.

It appears that in 2008, the spring seeded ryegrass fields are looking superior to the fall seeded fields. Developmentally, the fall seeded fields are behind the spring seeded ones, but we will wait to see what the harvest numbers look like before judgment begins.

Spring Seeded Ryegrass



Fall Seeded Ryegrass



Bluegrass

This week has the majority of bluegrass fields in the midst of pollen shed. The yield potential of the majority of fields is looking very promising if the overly-hot temperatures stay elsewhere until after seed filling.



At this time last year the early fields of bluegrass were being swathed. What a difference a year can make!

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

We have had our first reports of rust in the region for 2008.

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

In 2007, several ryegrass fields in southern Roseau County had leaf and stem rust on 6/26/07.

The 2008 samples have been sent to St. Paul for identification. We will let you know the details of the samples in the next newsletter.

If you have what looks like rust in your ryegrass please contact your agronomist and the University of Minnesota. When rust is first observed on ryegrass, be sure to let us know. A student, John Frelich is hired to monitor this season and will be making a few trips north this summer as part of his work.

Send samples to:

Donn Vellekson
411 Borlaug Hall
1991 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, Mn. 55108
ph. 612-625-9765

With the recent observation of rust in ryegrass in southern Roseau County, the two main strategies for rust control would be:

- 1) Spray a fungicide as soon as it can be scheduled or,
- 2) Continue to scout your ryegrass fields for rust

A fungicide will provide two to three weeks of protection depending product and rate. After pollen shed, ryegrass should be swathed in approximately three to three and one-half weeks. A fungicide applied now has the potential to protect the ryegrass plant from rust infection until swathing.

If the decision is to continue to scout for rust it is **important to scout your fields every couple of days**. If conditions are favorable, this fungal disease can “explode” in just a few days.

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.

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

Insects

Grasshoppers have been observed in area fields along field edges and roadways. What is the threshold for grasshoppers in ryegrass? We don't have good data. However, in other crops 6 to 8 hoppers/yard or up to 25% defoliation are guidelines.

Wild Oat Control

Last week, we pondered the question of how to combat Puma resistant wild oats(resistant to ACCase inhibitors) in ryegrass.

The only answer we can currently recommend is to utilize a product like Nortron the season prior to ryegrass establishment. We currently have no product that can be utilized during the season of harvest. Work will continue to find a solution to this situation.

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 21, 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 1-21	558	666	699	676	-108
Total	1,274	1,824	2,030	1,800	-550

The 2008 season continues to track cooler than any year since 2005. Year-to-date GDD has the 2008 season -550 behind the 2007, -756 behind 2006 and -526 behind 2005. As of last week, the 2008 season was **18.5 days** behind the three year average. This week we are **18.8 days**. Short term forecast suggests that we may accumulate heat units this week.

Heavy pollen shed observed in Park bluegrass over the weekend. Pollen shed in 2007 was light. The observed heavy pollen shed in 2008 should not be a limiting factor to yield. Bluegrass generally is swathed in two to three weeks after pollen shed.

Spring and fall seeded ryegrass is in the heading stage. Pollen shed is the next stage after heading. Ryegrass typically sheds pollen in the mid-morning. At times it can look like dust blowing from vehicles driving on gravel roads.

We soon have accumulated enough heat units for crown rust and grasshoppers. Check ryegrass fields for grasshoppers. It seems grasshoppers like the stubble of spring seeded and no till fall seeded

ryegrass into wheat stubble. Crown rust can overwinter in our area and is usually occurs in isolated ryegrass field. Leaf and stem rust is more wide-spread and has the potential to cause more damage than crown rust in ryegrass. Leaf and stem rust generally shows up a week or so later than crown rust.

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 2 miles north at the junction of Hwy 11 and 310 in the city of Roseau. Then travel 2.5 miles west (Dinner will be provided by Cenex West Plant, Roseau)

The next edition of the newsletter is scheduled to be released on July 1, 2008.

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