

MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER
June 8, 2010

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2010 growing season with comparisons to the last four years. A base temp of 32 degrees F will be used for ryegrass (T-Base = 32 F). The GDD information presented in Table 1 is March to June in 2006 - 2009 and March, April, May and June 1 - 6 in 2010.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March - June in 2006 - 2009 and March, April, May and June 1-6 in 2010 at Roseau MN.

| Year | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2010 vs. 09 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| March | 137 | 30 | 6 | 90 | 53 | +107 |
| April | 476 | 247 | 202 | 322 | 529 | +229 |
| May | 707 | 515 | 501 | 746 | 730 | +192 |
| June | | 860 | 870 | 990 | 943 | |
| June 1-6 | 184 | | | | | |
| Total | 1,504 | 1,652 | 1,579 | 2,148 | 2,255 | |

Last week we accumulated an average of 26.2 GDD/day. The short term forecast is for daytime highs in the mid 60's to low 70's. Showers continue to be in the forecast for entire week. The recent rains have delayed spraying operations. Plant growth and development (crops and weeds) will proceed at a rapid pace now that we are into the long days of June.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass

Area ryegrass fields are in the heading stage. Pollen shed will begin next week and will continue for several weeks. Ryegrass typically sheds pollen in mid-morning and pollen can be observed moving across ryegrass fields.

Bluegrass

Bluegrass fields have shed pollen. Field observations suggest heavy pollen shed (pollen fog was moving over fields several mornings last week) in 'Minnefine' and 'Park' bluegrass fields. Bluegrass usually sheds pollen early in the morning and can give the appearance of a fog rolling over the field.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

The USDA-ARS tracks rust development and movement from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern plain states. As of May 26, aecial infections were observed on barberry plants in southern Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. Barberry is an alternate host for stem and stripe rusts. For additional information see the link below for The Cereal Rust Bulletin. The link to this site:

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

CROP MANAGEMENT

Certified seed fields must have a field inspection and have field isolation strips cut. To schedule a field inspection contact your fieldman or the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.

Bluegrass

Bluegrass swathing is right around the corner and a common question is when to begin swathing bluegrass. The data in Table 2 was conducted in bluegrass in the 2007 season to determine the influence of time of swathing on bluegrass seed yield. The other objective was to evaluate bluegrass seed yields that were cut and immediately bagged and dried compared to bluegrass which was cut and dried in the field.

Table 2. Date of harvest of 'Park' bluegrass in Roseau County (Rice Farms) in 2007.

| Date of cutting bluegrass | Bluegrass yields averaged of all samples (#/A) | Bluegrass bagged and dried (#/A) | Bluegrass field dried bagged 7/5 (#/A) | Bluegrass field dried bagged 7/8 (#/A) |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 6/23 | 517 | 544 | 491 | |
| 6/25 | 564 | 535 | 593 | |
| 6/27 | 566 | 575 | 558 | |
| 6/29 | 515 | 522 | | 508 |
| 7/2 | 464 | 450 | | 477 |
| LSD (5%) | 74 | 91 | 91 | NS |

The first column is the calendar date of swathing. The second column is the mean bluegrass seed yield from each date of cutting. The third column is bluegrass seed yield that was cut and bagged on the same day and the last two columns are bluegrass seed yield that was cut and field dried and bagged on July 5 and July 8.

Observations from this trial:

- Bluegrass yields tended to be highest from the June 25 – 27 swathing dates
- Bluegrass yields tended lower from the early (June 23) and were significantly lower from the late date (July 2)
- Bluegrass yields averaged the same (525 #/A) from samples that were air dried in the field or those that were immediately bagged and dried

Grass Seed Research Results are now 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

SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR

The annual grass seed field tour has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 23. Field tour will begin at 5:00 pm 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 travel for approximately 3 miles. The farm is located on the north side of Hwy 16. Bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue variety trials will be included at this stop. 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 edition of this newsletter will be released on June 15, 2010.