

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
June 14, 2016**

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2016 growing season with comparisons to the previous six 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. Thus far in 2016, we have accumulated 1,426 GDD, as of June 12th (Table 1). Last week averaged 214 GDD (30.6/day). The short term forecast suggests a continuation of the warmer than average temperatures into the third week of June. Projected GDD for the next 10 days at Roseau are 363 (36.3/day) compared to the long term average of 219 (31.3/day) for the third week of June.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD), March - May 2010 to March -May 2016 near Roseau MN.

| Year | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2016 vs. 15 |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| March | 38 | 119 | 0 | 0 | 304 | 7 | 137 | -81 |
| April | 263 | 367 | 159 | 80 | 370 | 278 | 476 | -104 |
| May | 765 | 659 | 654 | 640 | 726 | 639 | 707 | +106 |
| June | | 941 | 964 | 975 | 979 | 898 | 911 | |
| June 1-12 | 360 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 1,426 | 2,086 | 1,777 | 1,695 | 2,379 | 1,822 | 2,231 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| June 13-22 * | 363 | | | | | | | |

* Forecasted GDD at Roseau for the next 10 days.

SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR

The annual grass seed field tour has been scheduled for 5:00 pm, Wednesday, June 29th at the U of MN Magnusson Research Farm. Directions to the Magnusson Research Farm.

From the intersection of Hwy 11 and 89 travel 2 miles north on Hwy 310, turn left (west) off Hwy 310 onto Roseau County 16 and continue west for approximately 3 miles. The farm is located on the north side of Hwy 16. Grass seed varieties include: fescue, intermediate wheatgrass, perennial ryegrass and switchgrass. Management projects include: cover crop research, biomass and vegetation composition research, weed control research in ryegrass, fertility rate and timing in ryegrass, ryegrass date of planting trials, ryegrass growth regulators, fungicides and other trials will be included on the tour.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Area ryegrass fields are in the heading stage. Pollen shed is beginning on the most mature ryegrass plants in fields. Pollen shed should be in 'full swing' by the weekend and will continue for several weeks. Ryegrass typically sheds pollen in mid-morning. 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 morning.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Isolation Strips for Ryegrass Seed Crops

Now is the time to plan for cutting isolation strips in certified grass seed crops. If you have questions or concerns please talk to your grass seed fieldman, seed conditioner or Kris Folland with MCIA. For certified perennial ryegrass seed, a 165' isolation strip is required when bordering other varieties of ryegrass. Flags can be placed as a method of isolation at harvest time.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Insects

The recent rainfall and warm weather has resulted in the emergence of mosquitos and other insects. This 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

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.

U of MN GRASS SEED RESEARCH REPORTS

The U of MN Grass Seed Research Reports are available on the Web. The MN Turf Seed web site archives the U of MN Research Reports from 1967 to the present and can be viewed at the web address:

http://www.mnturfseed.org/html/progress_reports.html

Next week's newsletter will be released on June 21st, 2016.