

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED GROWERS NEWSLETTER**  
**June 22, 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 - 20 in 2010.

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March - June in 2006 - 2009 and March, April, May and June 1-20 in 2010 at Roseau MN.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010 vs. 09</b>
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 1-20	583					
Total	1,903	1,652	1,579	2,148	2,255	

The ten day forecast has the chance for scattered thunder storms for the remainder of the week with sun and 80's for next week. If this forecast holds many bluegrass fields will be swathed and the early ryegrass will be done shedding pollen. Last week we accumulated an average of 31.4 GDD/day and if we get daytime temps in the 80's and lows in the 60's we will accumulate close to 40 GDD/day!

**GENERAL CROP CONDITION**

Ryegrass

Area ryegrass fields are shedding pollen. Over the weekend heavy pollen shed was observed which hopefully, will mean good pollination and seed set.

Bluegrass

In the last few days the bluegrass has really began to turn color. If we get sun to shine, bluegrass will mature rapidly and the swathers may be rolling by the weekend.

**PEST MANAGEMENT**

Ryegrass

Rust has been observed in isolated areas in the ryegrass growing region. A couple fields in Lake of the Woods County have moderate to severe levels of leaf and stem rust in ryegrass. Rust develops rapidly when rain or dew is present on the plant tissue and the temperatures are above 50 F. Rust can explode in a short amount of time. Data from the west coast indicates that rust will complete a cycle in 13 to 17 days in 50F and 8 to 9 days if the temps are 65F. In the last few weeks we have had wet foliage every day and the temperatures have been favorable for rust development. Conditions are favorable for the spread of leaf and stem rust in ryegrass. Field scouting will be critical in the next few weeks to document the incidence and severity of rust in area crops.

## **CROP MANAGEMENT**

### **General**

Certified seed fields must have a field inspection and have field isolation strips cut. To schedule a field inspection contact your seed fieldman or the Minnesota Crop Improvement. If isolation strips have not been cut, try and get this done this week.

Some ryegrass fields have rouged for off type plants. It is important to control weeds in the field and not run these plants through the combine. Roundup through a wand (spot spraying), or through a rope wick have been successfully used to control off type plants in ryegrass.

### **Grass seed crops**

The mosquito's came out in full force over the weekend. This is a reminder that insects, at times can damage grass seed crops.

Grasshoppers can be a problem in grass seed crop. 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.

Armyworms are another insect pest that can damage grass seed crops. Armyworms moths tend to lay eggs in lodged areas of the fields and will be the first place to check for armyworms.

## **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 29, 2010.