

MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
August 6, 2019

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Accumulated GDD was 2,934 as of August 4, 2109. In the last few years, after the accumulation of 3,000 GDD the bulk of spring seeded ryegrass has been swathed. Depending upon the time of seeding late summer seeded ryegrass, the swathing operation will be delayed as will ryegrass fields that have had damage to the crown region.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Last week was a busy one for ryegrass swathing and harvesting which will continue this week. Reports of ryegrass seed moisture from the combine are as low as the 12-14% range. It's important to get air moving through ryegrass in storage to cool the seed down and get the seed moisture to 10-11% range for long term storage.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Wheat harvest is right around the corner and one of the first steps in a successful ryegrass crop is a uniform spread of straw from the back of the combine. A little bit of time to adjust the straw spread will pay dividends in a more uniform ryegrass stand. Even if the plan is to harrow the straw, it's still worth the time to get a uniform spread of wheat straw and fines from the back of the combine.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Scattered rust has been reported in area ryegrass fields. Rust infestations were delayed in most of the upper Midwest in the 2019 growing season. If swathing is within a week, or so, it's not cost effective to apply a fungicide to control rust.

This will be the last weekly ryegrass newsletter for the 2019 season.