

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
August 9, 2022**

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Perennial ryegrass GDD's (from snow melt to swathing) will be tracked in the 2022 growing season with comparisons to the previous six years. A base temperature, T-Base = 32 degrees F, will be used for perennial ryegrass.

- Year to date GDD = 3,028 (Table 1)
- Last week (July 25-31) accumulated GDD = 221; the long term average = 229
- Projected GDD for the next 10 days = 352, or 35.2/day (Table 1)
- Average GDD for the second week of August = 230, or 32.8/day
- The 10 day forecast suggests warmer than average temperatures for second week of August as the projected GDD is 35.2/ day vs the long term average of 32.6/day.

Table 1. Growing Degree Days (GDD), March - July 2016 to March - July 2022 near Roseau MN.

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2022 vs. 2021
March	0	131	30	0	0	90	38	-131
April	95	236	183	211	184	458	263	-141
May	649	640	600	548	815	679	765	+9
June	959	1,007	995	919	1,007	917	945	-48
July	1,104	1,174	1,179	1,067	1,100	1,095	1,123	-70
Aug 1-7	221							
Total	2,807	3,188	2,987	2,745	3,106	3,239	3,233	
*Aug 8-17	352							

* Forecasted GDD at Roseau for the next 10 days.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Last week was a busy one for swathing of ryegrass and will continue this week. The majority of the ryegrass fields will be swathed by the end of the week.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Spring wheat harvest is still a few weeks away. Wheat straw management is a critical step in a successful ryegrass stand. If the wheat is spread out the back of the combine, strive for a uniform straw pattern. If baling, move bales off the field so bales don't smother the young ryegrass seedlings. A light harrow after an application of P&K will help move straw clumps that can act as a blanket and smothers the young ryegrass plants. When harrowing make sure the straw flows through the harrow, if the straw clumps or balls up, the straw is too damp and wait for it to dry out.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Leaf and stem and crown rust has been observed on perennial ryegrass underseeded to wheat. Rust on these young ryegrass plants look bad, but research trials over the years has indicated that a fungicide application in the late summer, or early fall will not reduce the infestation of rust the following year as leaf and stem rust doesn't over winter in the cold temperatures of northern MN.

This is the last weekly issue of the perennial ryegrass newsletter for the 2022 season.