

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
Aug 1, 2023**

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Perennial ryegrass GDD's will be tracked in the 2023 growing season with comparisons to the previous six years. The accumulation of GDD's will begin after the snow has melted from the perennial ryegrass fields and continue through swathing. A base temperature of 32 degrees F is used for perennial ryegrass (T-Base = 32 F).

- Year to date GDD = 3,101 (Table 1)
- GDD last week (July 24-30) = 240; Long term average = 234
- GDD projected in next 10 days = 371 or 37.1/day (Table 1)
- Average GDD the second week of August = 230 or 32.8/day
- The ten-day forecast suggests warmer than average temperatures for the first week of August. Projected GDD is 37.1/day compared to the long-term average of 32.7/day.

Table 1. Growing Degree Days (GDD), March - July 2017 to March - July 2023 near Roseau MN.

Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2023 vs. 2022
March	0	0	131	30	0	0	90	0
April	93	95	236	183	211	184	458	-2
May	959	649	640	600	548	815	679	+310
June	1,064	959	1,007	995	919	1007	945	+105
July	985	1,104	1,174	1,179	1,067	1,100	1,123	-119
Total	3,101	2,807	3,188	2,987	2,745	3,106	3,233	
*July 31-Aug 9	371							

* Forecasted GDD at Roseau for the next 10 days.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Last week was a busy one for swathing and harvesting perennial ryegrass. Swathing is about wrapped and harvest will continue this week. This will be the last weekly newsletter for the 2023 season as most of the perennial ryegrass has been swathed and by the end of the week, if the weather forecast holds, a large percentage of the ryegrass will be in the bin.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Spring wheat harvest is still a few weeks away. Wheat straw management is a critical step in maximizing the yield potential of the 2024 perennial ryegrass crop. If the wheat straw 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 smother 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, so wait for it to dry out.