

**MINNESOTA TURF SEED COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
August 6, 2024**

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Perennial ryegrass GDD's will be tracked in the 2024 growing season with comparisons to the previous seven 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 = 3,064 (Table 1)
- GDD last week (July 29 - Aug 4) = 258; Long term average = 229
- GDD projected in next 10 days = 317 or 31.7/day (Table 1)
- Average GDD for the second week of August = 230 or 32.8/day
- The ten-day forecast suggests cooler than average temperatures for the second week of August. Projected GDD is 31.7/day compared to the long-term average of 32.8/day.

Table 1. Growing Degree Days (GDD), March - July 2017 to March - July 2024 near Roseau MN.

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2024 vs. 2023
March	0	0	0	131	30	0	0	90	0
April	296	93	95	236	183	211	184	458	+203
May	653	959	649	640	600	548	815	679	-306
June	859	1,064	959	1,007	995	919	1,007	945	-205
July	1,119	985	1,104	1,174	1,179	1,067	1,100	1,123	+134
Total	2,927	3,101	2,807	3,188	2,987	2,745	3,106	3,233	
*Aug 5 - 14	317								

* Forecasted GDD at Roseau for the next 10 days.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Spring seeded ryegrass harvest began late last week and will continue this week. Perennial ryegrass swathing will continue this week in fields that had winter injury and in fall seeded fields.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Spring wheat harvest is right around the corner. In the last few weeks, Canada thistle, pigweeds, wild oats, foxtail barley and other weeds are now visible over the top of the wheat canopy. From the combine seat when harvesting wheat fields underseeded to ryegrass it would be a good time to make a mental note, or better yet make a weed map of these problem weeds. A weed map developed from the combine will help identify these problem weed areas in next year's perennial ryegrass field. Foxtail barley, volunteer wheat and resistant wild oats are difficult weeds to control in ryegrass. One product that shows promise is Nortron. Nortron fall applied has shown good activity on foxtail barley in perennial ryegrass fields. However, the best chance of resistant wild oat control is from Nortron applied in the spring.

This will be the last ryegrass newsletter for the season as ryegrass harvest should be in full swing this week.