NORTHERN MINNESOTA GRASS SEED GROWERS
NEWSLETTER
June 6, 2011

RYEGRASS GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD)

Ryegrass GDD will be tracked for the 2011 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).

Table 1. Growing degree days (GDD) for March, April and May 2006 - 2011 near Roseau MN.

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2011 vs. 10
March	7	137	30	6	90	-130
April	278	476	247	202	322	-198
May	639	707	515	501	746	-68
June		911	860	870	990	
June 1-5	137					
Total	1,061	2,231	1,652	1,579	2,148	

With the week ending June 5th we accumulated an average of 26.7 GDD/day. In two of the last three weeks, weather has been warm with an average accumulated GDD of 27.7/day. This compared last week, which was a cool week, which we accumulated an average of 19.4 GDD/day. These two warm weeks in May have made up some ground in accumulated GDD in 2011 compared to 2010. For the month of May the 2011 season is 68 GDD behind the 2010 season. However, the 2010 season is ahead of the cool years of 2008 and 2009.

GENERAL CROP CONDITION

Ryegrass

Most ryegrass fields are in the jointing (spring seeded 2 - 3 nodes and fall seeded late tillering to two nodes). Many area ryegrass fields are taller than the wheat stubble. The next major growth stage in ryegrass is heading. Isolated ryegrass fields are heading. With heading right around the corner in ryegrass, it's time to schedule an application of Apogee growth regulator. In 2010, the performance of Apogee was not as effective as in previous years. The 2010 season was a great year for perennial ryegrass growth. In fact, in the 2010 season we had many fields that had the most perennial ryegrass vegetative growth as any year in recent memory. With the "lush" vegetative growth it will take a higher rate of Apogee than if we have a year with more thin line growth (2008 & 2009). Thus far in 2011, it looks like the ryegrass growth is similar to 2010. To keep ryegrass from lodging it may take a higher rate of Apogee than 5 to 6 oz, especially if the available nitrogen is over 120 pounds/A. Consult with your fieldman or agronomist for local experience.

Bluegrass

Most of the Park bluegrass is headed.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Ryegrass

In previous years in northern Minnesota environments, crown rust has been observed after approximately 1,500 GDD and leaf and stem rust at 1,900 GDD. Thus far in the 2011 season we have accumulated 1,061 GDD. Last week we averaged 26.7 GDD/day. IF the GDD model holds, we may see crown rust show up in two-to-three weeks and leaf and stem rust in four week weeks. If we

experience warmer than normal weather this will shorten this time line and if we are cooler than normal this will lengthen this timeline.

The USDA-ARS tracks rust development and movement from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern plain states. As of the first of June low levels of wheat leaf rust were found in southeastern Minnesota (Dakota County). In addition, rust was observed on barberry in late May in southeast Minnesota (Winona County).

The USDA-ARS publishes a Cereal Rust Bulletin every two weeks during the growing season. This bulletin tracks the progression of rust from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern plains.
The link to this site:
(*http://www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/cdl*)

Bluegrass
Low levels of mildew continue to be found in area bluegrass fields. Mildew is a disease that can move from low levels to wide spread infections in a matter of a few days. Field scouting will determine the level of mildew, but keep in mind mildew can flare in just a few days.

CROP MANAGEMENT

Isolation strips for grass seed crops
Now is the time to cut isolation strips in certified grass seed crops. If you have questions or concerns please talk to your grass seed fieldman, seed conditioner or Kris with MCIA.
Dates for this year: bluegrass isolations are June1 to July 12 and perennial ryegrass is June 16 to August 10.

Bluegrass
Silvertop has been observed in previous years in area bluegrass fields. One of the causes of silvertop (bluegrass head prematurely turns white with no seed production) is the Capsus bug. One of the primary control measures against the Capsus bug is a complete burn of the bluegrass straw. If the burn is erratic or incomplete, the Capsus bug can overwinter, emerge and will burrow into the bluegrass stem and cut off the translocation to the developing seed head. The result is a bluegrass seed head with a white color with no seed production. The emergence of this insect corresponds to the time when lilac's are in bloom. Malathion has given good control of this pest in previous research

SUMMER GRASS SEED FIELD TOUR

The annual grass seed field tour has been scheduled for 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 29 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 for approximately 3 miles. The farm is located on the north side of Hwy 16. Bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue variety trials will be included on the tour. 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 Grass Seed Newsletter will be released on June 13, 2011.