

Now is the time to control seed heads March 7, 2016

The warm weather this February has caused annual bluegrass seed head models to kick into high gear roughly a month before the prior two seasons. Michigan State's GDD Tracker (gddtracker.net) uses air temperature data to help schedule PGR applications to suppress seed heads. The models for Proxy + Primo indicate the first applications be made this week across much of Nebraska. A second application of Proxy + Primo should then be made three weeks later. Models indicate it is still too early to treat with Embark (if you have some left in your inventory). Remember, Proxy and Embark only suppress seed head formation. It is difficult to achieve 100% control. While some seed heads will likely break through, the seed heads would likely be much worse without these preventative applications.

Proxy is the product that reduces seed head formation while Primo Maxx is added to reduce phytotoxicity. GA-inhibiting PGRs alone will only delay the emergence of seed heads this summer. We are currently researching the mixtures of Proxy+pigment and Proxy+Signature to see if these products can further increase Proxy safety. We are also looking at late fall applications of Proxy to further enhance percent control.

Bill Kreuser, Assistant Professor, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, wkreuser2@unl.edu

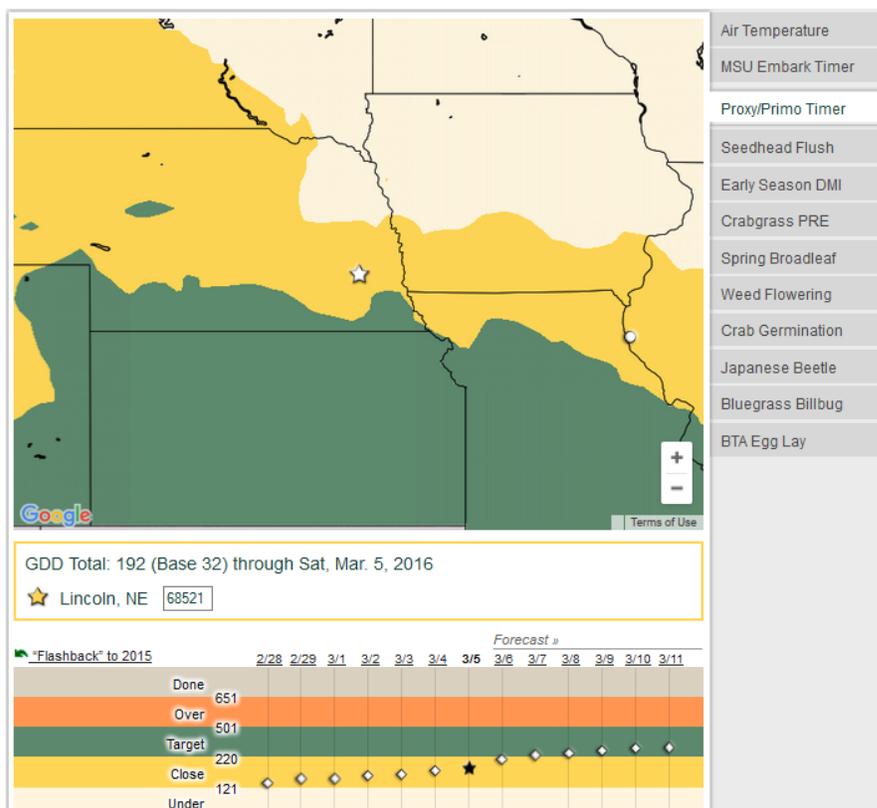


Figure 1. Seedheads can be an unsightly side effect of annual ecotypes of *Poa annua*. The MSU GDD Tracker (gddtracker.net) indicates Proxy+Primo should be made soon. It's still early for Embark applications. Follow up applications of Proxy+Primo should be made three weeks after the first application.