



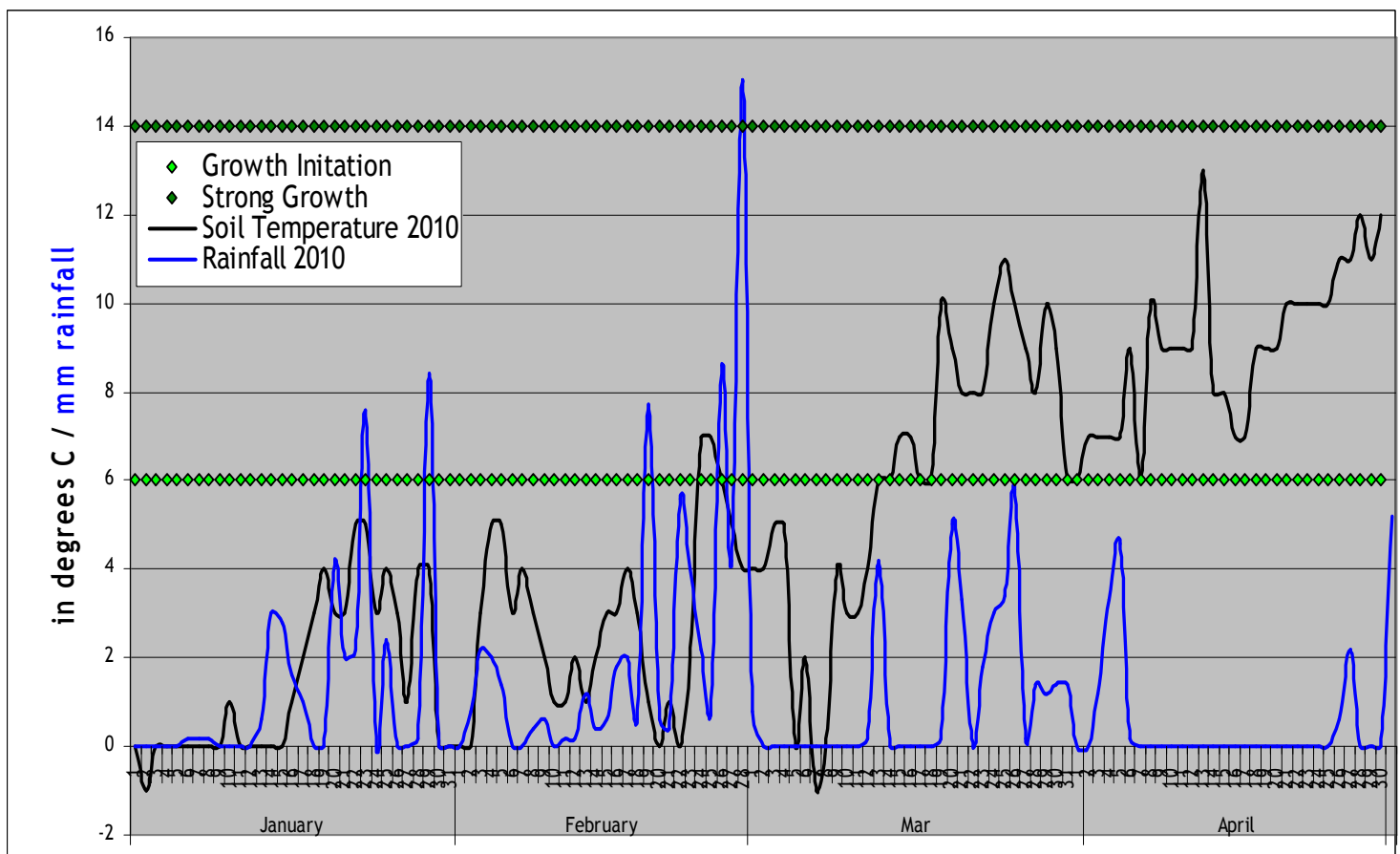
2010 - EARLY SPRING SUMMARY

The soil temperature data below highlights the relatively cold spring we have experienced so far in 2010 and in particular the cold months of January and February. The graph below illustrates that there were only two days when the soil temperature was high enough for growth in the first two months of 2010.

Growth didn't start in earnest till Mid-March, but soon dropped back with growth checks at the end of March and beginning of April, due to frosts and the commencement of a dry spell of weather which lasted for 21 days in most areas and provided a growth-limiting effect, (due to lack of moisture) even though soil temperatures were now high enough for growth.

The dry spell in April also initiated seedhead development in *Poa annua* var. *annua* biotypes; though the main seedhead flush for *Poa annua* var. *reptans* is only just starting now in early May. (As per normal)

At no point in 2010 to date have soil temperatures exceeded 14°C and initiated strong growth, a plus for managing fairway and semi-roughs during the four-day weeks of the bank holidays, due to the lack of growth surge, but a negative if you're trying to get recovery from aeration carried out in late March / April.





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The graph below provides an indication of growth potential by adding up the total number of growing days each month when the soil temperature exceeded the base level of 6 C - the threshold for growth initiation of greens grass species. For example if a day has an average soil temperature of 8 C, this would give a score of 2 (8-6). All the positive scores are totalled per month to get a total figure indicative of the growth potential.

As the chart shows, the last two years have provided little growth in January and February, due to the hard winters, unlike a more usual, milder, wet winter scenario, such as we experienced in 2007.

As a month, April is key to good, spring growth and here the chart highlights the relatively poor growing conditions we have experienced this year vs. previous years.

