

Blueberry Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

May 2011

Registrations

What's New in Pest Control?

Callisto 480 SC

First registered for cranberries in 2006, Callisto 480SC (a.i. Mesotrione) now has a minor use registration in blueberries. Used pre-emergence on weeds, it is meant to control lamb's quarters, redroot pigweed, velvetleaf, wild mustard and suppress common ragweed, vetch and creeping buttercup. Post-emergence, it is registered to control eastern black nightshade. When applied post-emergence, add Agral 90 using 0.2% v/v. Spray as a directed application to the base of the plant and the ground, up to the 8 leaf stage of pre-bloom weeds. One application per year is allowed. Pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 60 days and re-entry interval (REI) of 12 hours.

NEW

Liberate

A brand new non-ionic surfactant distributed by TerraLink, Liberate has a neutral pH and will not acidify your spray mixtures like other surfactants. Soybean-based components work well with systemic chemistry. Its uniform droplets promote complete coverage and retention on leaves. Odorless and low foaming, Liberate is 100% active ingredient. Liberate will be much safer on crops especially when used with complex tank mixtures. Use at a rate of 1 – 2.5 L per 1000 L spray solution.

Dual II Magnum

Hard to believe such an old dog can be taught new tricks, but there it is – Dual II Magnum now has a minor use label expansion for use in both new and

established highbush blueberries for weeds such as American nightshade, Eastern black nightshade, Smooth and Hairy crabgrass, Barnyard grass, Fall panicum, green, yellow and giant foxtails, Old witchgrass and suppression of Redroot pigweed. It must be applied as a banded pre-emergence application on the soil. Avoid contact with any part of the blueberry trunk and foliage, as it can result in crop injury and yield reduction. One application allowable per year at 500 – 700 mL/acre, no closer than 30 days to harvest.

Phosphorous Efficiency

Try Avail® for New Plantings



AVAIL

Placement of phosphorous closer in to the plant is one way of improving P fertilizer efficiency. Another way is to allow less to be tied up and unavailable to plants. Normally, about 80% of the phosphate applied to the soil gets tied up by cations such as calcium, aluminum, iron and magnesium. Although not permanently unavailable to plants, the conditions in which tied-up soil phosphorous can be available will be discussed another time. To reduce the amount of phosphorous being tied up, use **Avail**® Phosphorous Enhancer. With **Avail**® you can use 20% less incorporated P fertilizer when planting new blueberries. This is not an idle claim. **Avail**® has been used in the Pacific Northwest of the USA for several years. Many scientific university tests have been conducted world-wide on a variety of crops in a variety of conditions. See for yourself by going to the

manufacturer's web site (Simplot) at www.chooseavail.com. You can choose to listen to testimonials by farmers, or click on "RESEARCH DATA" at the top right, then click "WEST" to access research work done in climate and soil types like ours. Or, go back to the main page, click on "SCIENCE BEHIND AVAIL" and read more about how **Avail**® works.

References: <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/berry/production/pdfs/blueberries/bbrrigation/pdf>; <http://web3canr.msu.edu/vanburen/fbbgrow.htm>; <http://www.chooseavail.com>

Plant Nutrition

A Review of Stabilized Nitrogen

Once in a while it seems a good idea to review the plant nutrition technology available to blueberry producers. One such product we have had good success with is stabilized nitrogen, brand-named SuperU.

SuperU
UREA

SuperU is NOT slow release nitrogen, although the effect appears the same. Unlike slow release nitrogen fertilizers that emit nitrogen gradually, stabilized nitrogen slows down and delays part of the nitrogen cycle. SuperU has two functional components. A urease inhibitor stops the hydrolysis of urea for up to two weeks (urease is an enzyme that regulates hydrolysis, and is found naturally in soil).

Continued..

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

Unlike **Agrotain**, which contains only a urease inhibitor, SuperU has a nitrification inhibitor as well, which delays conversion of ammonium to nitrate. The delay in these processes results in more ammoniacal nitrogen remaining in the soil for a longer period of time. Blueberry plants thus have more time to take up nitrogen in the form preferred by them. Also, a slower hydrolysis of urea means slower conversion to ammonia, which can volatilize. That means less of your hard-earned dollars evaporating into the air! An even further benefit is less nitrogen being converted all the way to nitrate; a form of nitrogen blueberries do not like which can leach into the groundwater. That means less of your hard-earned dollars floating away!



Convenient Location

Chemicals Available in Delta

Don't forget, you can buy chemicals from TerraLink by going into Roddick Feed, Farm and Garden at 4119 – 40th Street in Delta. If you farm in the Cloverdale area or to the west, this may be faster for you then coming out to Abbotsford or waiting for a delivery. All herbicides, insecticides and fungicides for blueberries are stocked there in-season, and the friendly staff can help you just like in Abbotsford. Billing of chemicals is on your TerraLink statement as normal. Come in any time, or call 604-946-8338 to order ahead and have your chemicals waiting for you.

Helpful Tools

Check Out Our Web Site!

If you haven't been to www.tlhort.com for a while, take a moment and check it out! Want to find a label or a Material Safety Data Sheet? Just use the search function. Want to know about a specific product? Use the menu bar on the left side, or again, use the search function. To make life easier, you can choose your specialty on the right side, then save that page to favorites. Link to a supplier site for more information on a product. Or, choose a technical link to use a converter tool, or try the PMRA's new buffer zone reduction calculator. Even better, dive into our library of agri advisors and newsletters to access current or previous publications and articles.

Set The Stage

Maximum Yield and Quality

After several years of development, Terralink's three-stage series of liquid fertilizers for fertigating young blueberries (<3 years) have proven to be popular. The three products are meant to be used in succession, one following the other to supply the right nutrients, in the right order. Remember, although Stage I, Stage II and Stage III are important, it is still best agronomically and economically to use them in combination with granular, foliar and possibly other fertigation fertilizers.



Stage I 10-32-0 Starter:

- Use in early spring; designed to help initiate root development and improve biomass.
- Can use in situations of cold and wet soils, in fields less than 3 years old, or in cases of root damage.
- Rates: 5-10 gallons, 2 applications 10 days apart after soils warm above 5°C.

Stage II 20-5-0 Xcelerator:

- Designed for increasing growth; supplements a

granular fertilizer program.

- Can use in young plantings to push growth in cases where limited root development is an issue.
- Use in conjunction with foliar TerraBoost.
- Rates: 3 gallons per year of age every 2 weeks, no later than July 15.

Stage III 9-0-15 Greenfruit:

- Designed for post-bloom applications for berry size and uniformity of maturation.
- Can use at green fruit stage with a foliar application of Fruit Feeder.
- Use extensively on fields that are machine-picked.
- For fresh market berries requiring higher brix and better colour, use in conjunction with TigerClaw Calcium.
- Rates: 5 gallons at green fruit stage then repeat at first colour change.

Crop Protection

Featured Pest: Weevils

Although this is not a new pest, many berry growers may be excused for thinking of weevils as a major pest only in raspberries. In fact, almost half of all blueberry fields in the Fraser Valley are infested with one or more of the five species of weevils. At the Blueberry Diagnostic Workshop hosted by the BCMAL in February, Tracy Huepelsheuser, the BCMAL entomologist, reminded growers to watch for the typical notching on leaf edges, looking like someone went round the with a hole punch. Other characteristic damage includes girdling on new wood and stems caused by the adult beetles, and 'tracking' along root surfaces caused by the larval stage of weevils. Luckily, Actara 25WG was registered a couple of years ago for use in blueberries against weevils. Also, Decis, Malathion 85E and Admire affect weevils to some degree when applied for control of other pests.

