

# Small Fruit Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

## Plant Growth Regulators

### Increase Runners in Strawberries

A new Growth Regulator is now available for use in strawberries. GroSpurt GS-4, a gibberellic acid product, can be used to increase production of "daughter plants" (runners) in new plantings.

**GroSpurt™ GS-4**

Although GroSpurt GS-4 was only just registered for use in strawberries last year, gibberellic acid as a plant growth regulator has been used elsewhere in the world for various uses in agriculture for decades. Gibberellic acid behaves differently in each crop. In the Okanagan Valley, for example, cherry growers use this product every year without fail. It is used to increase fruit size, and no cherry grower lets a year go by without applying it. Blueberry growers in the Fraser Valley began using it last year to improve fruit set. In ornamental flowers it is used to increase plant size, increase the number of flowers, increase bloom size and other effects. Again, in each plant species, the benefits are different.

In your new strawberry plantation, make one application of 40 – 60 ppm 10 to 30 days following planting, when the plants have 1 – 6 leaves. Spray to the point of run-off. It is best to not apply GroSpurt GS-4 after mid-May. Do not apply to fruiting plants.

## Marine Plant Extracts

### The Benefits of Stella Maris in Small Fruits

Stella Maris Marine Plant Extract is sustainably hand-harvested *Ascophyllum nodosum* seaweed from the intertidal shores of Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy. Evolved in the freezing but nutrient rich water, it contains very unique, bioactive components that when applied to plants allow for higher quality crops. Popular around the world for use in horticultural crops, research has demonstrated a full range of benefits. For maximum effect, follow a complete application program.



What are the main benefits of using Stella Maris in small fruit crops?

- Improves all aspects of plant growth and development (size, quality, etc).
- Increases shelf life of harvested produce.
- Enhances resistance to stresses brought on by heat and drought.
- Increases Brix.

All of these have been scientifically proven by not only Stella Maris, but scientists working at universities and government as well.

In one trial in raspberries, applications of Stella Maris resulted in improved growth of new canes. In this trial, the number of new canes reaching the upper wires in eight weeks were 66% greater than untreated canes (North Carolina, 2012).

Sellers of competing kelps may point out that there is no nutrient analysis on the Stella Maris label. This is because Stella Maris is the only marine plant extract in all of Canada to have an actual CFIA registration as is – a sea plant extract. Stella Maris is registered for its own benefits. It doesn't need to masquerade as a fertilizer. The bottom line? Don't be fooled, and don't be talked into an imitation! Ask for the real thing: STELLA MARIS.

## Strengthening the Root Zone

### TigerClaw Symbex – What is it?

Tiger Claw Symbex is a soil biological stimulator that increases aerobic bacteria and beneficial fungi such as mycorrhizae. TigerClaw Symbex contains a patented formula of specific food sources, minerals and enzymes that stimulate growth of beneficial bacteria and fungi in the soil profile. TigerClaw Symbex does not contain live biological organisms that may not be adaptable to the specific soil and environmental conditions of your fields. Instead,

TigerClaw Symbex works by significantly increasing the beneficial bacteria and fungi populations that are already in and adapted to the soils on your farm.



TigerClaw Symbex encourages an increase in the native beneficial bacteria and fungi populations that are present in your soil profile for approximately one month following application. This increase in native microbial activity causes a natural aeration effect in the soil through the additional release of carbon dioxide and the encouragement of increased activity of larger organisms such as earthworms. This aeration activity can be very beneficial in poorly drained or overly wet soils. Research shows that TigerClaw Symbex can improve soil nutrient availability through increased microbial digestion and mycorrhizal activity.

For any small fruit crops, TigerClaw Symbex is best applied in the spring and fall to amplify the natural increase in soil biological activity and plant root growth. On established plantings, TigerClaw Symbex can be applied through most irrigation systems (including drip systems) and watered in or band sprayed as a soil drench at the base of the rows. With new plantings, TigerClaw Symbex can be applied in the planting hole or as a soil drench immediately after planting. A second application on new plantings can be made approximately one month after the initial application. The goal with all applications is to ensure that TigerClaw Symbex is in the soil profile where it can impact native beneficial bacteria, fungi populations and overall soil health.

## Pest Control

# New Registrations in Small Fruits

### Venture L Herbicide:

A minor use label expansion has been granted for Venture L herbicide for control or suppression of both

annual and perennial grassy weeds in caneberries. One exception is bluegrass species. Make sure to apply prior to the five leaf stage of newly grown grassy weeds. Established grasses are unlikely to be controlled well.

### Chateau Herbicide WDG:

A minor use label expansion was given for the use of Chateau Herbicide WDG for control of labelled weeds in raspberry and blackberry crops. Chateau WDG forms a "barrier", when activated by rain or irrigation of at least ½ cm of water. It does not affect established weeds. The active ingredient flumioxazin is a photosynthesis inhibitor, preventing target plants from making chlorophyll by inhibiting an essential enzyme (the enzyme is called protoporphyrinogen oxidase, for those interested in unpronounceable names). It can be used effectively on coarse and medium textured soils, but will be less effective on soils with very fine texture or high organic matter.



### Sivanto Prime Insecticide:

This Group 4D insecticide from Bayer CropSciences has been registered for control of aphids in caneberries. Sivanto Prime becomes rainfast within one hour after the spray solution dries on the foliage. It moves translaminarily through leaf tissue in the case of foliar application, and can provide control of pests on the underside of leaves. When applied via the soil, Sivanto Prime is acropetally

systemic, moving from the roots to the leaves. It has a Pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 0 days, and a re-entry interval of 12 hours.

### Velum Prime Nematicide & Fungicide:

Registered for control of powdery mildew in low-growing berries such as strawberries and cranberries (through drip irrigation equipment only), and suppression of early blight and plant pathogenic nematode species including root lesion, root knot and potato cyst nematodes in potatoes.

## Foliar Fertilizer in Small Fruit Crops

# TigerClaw Zinc +4 Foliar Fertilizer

TigerClaw Zinc +4 DL is a foliar micro nutrient product containing zinc, manganese, iron, copper and magnesium. This product utilizes Agro-K's Dextro-Lac manufacturing process to create carbohydrate-based micro nutrient complexes. The Dextro-Lac process creates foliar micro nutrient products that can quickly penetrate plant tissue and can be easily metabolized. As a simple sugar complex, TigerClaw Zinc +4 DL requires less expended plant energy to metabolize than other nutrient forms, increasing nutrient efficiency.

Apply TigerClaw Zinc +4 during periods of rapid plant leaf development, to any small fruit crop. The nutrient balance of this product is designed to support chlorophyll development and maximize leaf size, which represents photosynthetic surface area. Plant health, fruit quality and yield can be positively impacted by supporting the plant's ability to produce carbohydrates through photosynthesis.

Remember that foliar nutritional products should only be applied to dry leaf surfaces as a foliar mist "to wet". Although a compatibility check is recommended, TigerClaw Zinc +4 is compatible as a tank mix with many fertilizers and pesticides.