

Filbert Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Spring 2017

Plant Nutrition

Fertilizers for Filberts

TerraLink maintains stock in our warehouse of a wide variety of fertilizers that can be used in filbert production. Following is a list of suggested granular and liquid fertilizers for both conventional and organic production.

Fertilizer Blend	Type	Production
15-5-15 + micronutrients, Low P	granular	conventional
20-10-6 + micronutrients, Hi N	granular	conventional
8-10-20 + micronutrients, Hi K	granular	conventional
Maximize 17-5-11 + micronutrients	granular	organic-based
Maximize 14-7-7 + micronutrients	granular	organic-based
BioFert 10-3-0, Hi-N	granular	organic
BioFert 4-3-9, General Purpose	granular	organic
BioFert 3-1-4	liquid	organic
BioFish 3-1-2, Fish Fertilizer	liquid	organic
BioFert 1-3-15, Starter	liquid	organic
TerraLink Eco Boron 10% B	liquid	conventional
TSP 0-45-0	granular	conventional

- Individual nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphate and potash are available as well.
- The Maximize line of granular fertilizers contain at least 15% organic matter, formulated to help increase organic matter in our soils and combat soil degradation.
- BioFert products are organic and organic-based fertilizers manufactured in the Fraser Valley. Most are Ecocert-approved.

These are just a few of the product lines and diverse array of products to answer the nutritional needs of your soils and filbert orchards. Please ask if you need something you don't see offered in this selection.

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

About Us

TerraLink is the leading supplier of crop inputs in the Fraser Valley. We offer nutrients, crop protection, supplements and other products to all agricultural and horticultural producers, whether organic or conventional, in BC and the Pacific Northwest. In support of our clientele, we produce Agri Advisors: bulletins intended to offer some technical crop production information along with reminders of the wide variety of crop inputs available to you. As the filbert industry rebounds, we are pleased to renew the Filbert Advisor. If you feel you may not want to receive this newsletter, please let us know.

Orchard Management

Cover Crops – Yes or No?

Should you plant a cover crop? No one likes hearing this, but the answer is – it depends.

In most perennial crops, such as tree fruit and small fruit, cover crops provide mostly advantages and almost no disadvantages. In filberts, this needs some forethought, and that is why it depends. Let's look at the possible disadvantages first.

In the early years, during the establishment of the orchard, a cover crop can be risky if the orchard is non-irrigated. A cover crop, or any intercrop for that matter, can easily compete for water, to the detriment of the filbert trees. Young trees are vulnerable at this time, they don't compete for water very well, and they can be easily set back, damaged or killed, as a result of competition for water. If you don't have irrigation, don't risk your trees.

In producing orchards, the "floor" of the orchard must be as smooth as possible to facilitate sweeping, windrowing and harvesting. During these operations, cover crops would be in the way. Repeated use of a flail is best to remove cover

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crops. Do this well ahead of time. Also, in older orchards (probably unlikely, given the ubiquitous effects of Eastern Filbert Blight over the past several years), especially in the multi-trunk format, the foliage tended to reach right over the alleyways. The light underneath tended to be dim, so the chances of establishing cover crops were low.

Now for the potential advantages of cover crops. During the non-producing years of an establishing orchard, if you have irrigation, the chances of establishing cover crops are good. With what looks like huge bare alleyways, there is every good reason to grow something there until the commencement of the intense floor operations of a mature production orchard. In the interim years, while waiting for your trees to grow to their full height and foliage and reach full production, why not grow cover crops and reap the benefits? (an alternate idea is to “intercrop”, meaning grow another crop to use the available space and gain some revenue – but that is a topic for another time).

One of the major benefits from cover crops is erosion control. If your orchard is prone to erosion, under certain conditions rivulets can become minor gullies quickly in heavy rainfall. In the early life of a filbert planting, before you need to worry about grooming the orchard floor in preparation of harvesting, there is no reason not to establish a cover crop for erosion control. The roots will do a good job of holding the soil in place. Second, you can use nitrogen-fixing legume cover crops to add nitrogen to the soil. This is an inexpensive source of nitrogen. Filberts take much of their nitrogen requirement from the soil reservoir, much more efficiently than from top-dressed nitrogen fertilizer. Third, cover crops help combat compaction; especially grasses. Filbert orchards are vulnerable to compaction because of the amount of truck and tractor traffic they are exposed to over time.

Cover Crop Seed under our Richardson Seed brand is available at TerraLink. Seed blends tend to do better than individual species. Here are some choices:

- Alleyway Mix: low-growing, shade-tolerant blend designed for soil stabilization and erosion control. Prefers irrigated conditions.
- Low Maintenance Mix: low-growing, drought-tolerant, fine-textured. Does well when cut low.
- Legume/grass mixes: Fall Rye & Legume Mix, Wheat/Peas/Vetch or Oats/Peas/Vetch

Reduce, Re-use, Re-cycle

Pesticide Container Collection Program

TerraLink is participating in the CleanFARMS container collection program. This is part of the national industry association Crop Life Canada, which operates this program yearly to help reduce the amount of contaminated plastic that gets buried or burned. To be eligible, containers must be plastic, no bigger

than 23 L in size. Empty your containers, triple rinse them and remove the caps and any loose label or plastic wrap material. Then they can be returned to our Abbotsford location.



Pest Control

Crop Protection for Filberts

TerraLink carries a wide variety of pest control products in our warehouse at any time. Many pesticides have received registration in filberts, and many of the fungicides aimed at Eastern Filbert Blight, although the main defense has been a successful breeding program. Here is a list of pest controls that we offer for filbert production.

Product	Type	Group	Production
Acramite 50WS	miticide	UN	conventional
Admire 240	insecticide	4	conventional
Alion	herbicide	29	conventional
Altacor	insecticide	28	conventional
Closer	insecticide	4C	conventional
Copper Oxychloride	fungicide	M2	conventional
Credit Xtreme	herbicide	9	conventional
Cueva	fungicide	M1	conventional
Delegate	insecticide	5	conventional
Envidor 240 SC	miticide	23	conventional
Flint 50WG	fungicide	11	conventional
Fontelis	fungicide	7	conventional
Ignite 15 SN	herbicide	10	conventional
Lorsban NT	insecticide	1B	conventional
Princep Nine-T	herbicide	5	conventional
Purespray Green Oil 13E	insecticide	N/A	organic
Quadris	fungicide	11	conventional
Sandea WG	herbicide	2	conventional
Vegol Crop Oil	miticide/fungicide	N/A	organic
VP480	herbicide	9	conventional