

Vegetable Advisor

A TerraLink Technical Advisor

Plant Growth Regulators

Vegetables Benefit from GroSpurt GS-4

GroSpurt GS-4 is a gibberellic acid plant growth regulator that is now available for use in a variety of field-grown vegetables. Gibberellic acid has been used elsewhere in the world for various uses in agriculture for decades. It 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.

GroSpurt™ GS-4

Cucumbers, Melons: In extended periods of cool weather, Gro-Spurt GS-4 stimulates fruit set. 3-4 applications following fruit set may be required. For cantaloupes and watermelons, one application prior to bloom is recommended.

Broccoli & Cauliflower: In these crops, Gro-Spurt GS-4 promotes growth of the flower ball and shortens time to harvest. Apply when the plants have 6-8 leaves and the stem diameter is about 0.5-1.0 cm.

Peppers: In peppers, Gro-Spurt GS-4 can be used to improve pollination in periods of cool weather and to improve fruit set. To increase fruit size, apply at the beginning of harvest.

Eggplant: Spray the whole plant after late flower formation and early fruit development to increase fruit size.

For more information on this new product or a copy of the label or brochures, please contact the Sales Desk at TerraLink at 800-661-4559.

Vegetable Transplants

Strengthening the Rhizosphere

Vegetable producers all know that setting out transplants is a time of risk. The plugs have been lifted, moved, handled, and are in some degree of shock. Until they are planted there is a risk of drying out. It is a time of potential loss. These risks can't be eliminated, but they can be reduced. Here are four ideas you can try, to improve your chances. These products are all different, but they all have some positive influence on the root zone, or rhizosphere.

1. Two days prior to taking the transplants out to the field, spray them with Antistress Antitranspirant

at 3 L per 200 L of water. This will help prevent them from drying out.

2. To encourage root growth on the new transplants, use a root dip treatment of a solution of Stella Maris Aquatic Seaplant Extract at 40 – 100 mL per 10 L, prior to transplanting.
3. Is yours an organic farm? If so, try a drench of BioFert Root Conditioner at about 30 mL per litre of water after the transplants have been set out. Root Conditioner is a natural and organic liquid product that helps promote rooting. It will help in chelation of nutrients in the rhizosphere.
4. Use TigerClaw Symbex. Symbex is a soil biological stimulator that increases aerobic bacteria and beneficial fungi such as mycorrhizae. Either apply just after transplanting at 1-2 L per acre as a drench, or as a root soak at 8 mL per litre of water. The photograph below shows the effect Symbex can have on transplants. This was a trial in cabbage in 2016.



Pest Control

New Registrations in Field Vegetables

Centurion Herbicide:

Although not a new herbicide, Centurion does a great job at controlling grasses in many broadleaf crops. During the winter, Centurion gained a minor use label expansion for control of grassy weeds in garlic, listed herbs and spices. This add to an already long list of broadleaf fruit and vegetable crops, including potatoes, onions and other root crops. This post-emergence herbicide must be used with the adjuvant Amigo. It has a restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours.

Venture L Herbicide:

Like Centurion, Venture L is not new. It also recently gained a minor use label expansion for control or suppression of labeled grassy weeds in bulb and green onion, and also in head and leaf lettuce. An important difference between Venture L and Centurion, is that Venture L will provide for seasonal control of Quack grass (also known as Couch).



Presidio Fungicide:

A minor use label expansion allows for Presidio fungicide to be used for control of Pink Rot in potato, and control of Downy Mildew in Leafy Brassica Greens. Presidio is known to be both curative and protective with anti-sporulant activity. It moves within the xylem, and is locally systemic and translaminar. Presidio is practically non-toxic to bees.

Chateau WDG Herbicide:

A Group 14 product, Chateau WDG provides seasonal residual control of many broadleaf weeds. It forms a "barrier" in the soil, activated by rain or irrigation of 1/4 to 1/2 cm of water. 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 residual effects of Chateau WDG are reduced on soils with very fine texture or high organic matter. Chateau WDG now has a minor use label expansion for control of labeled weeds in transplanted broccoli.



Exirel Insecticide:

Do you have problems with flea beetles in leafy vegetables? If so, be reassured, as Exirel now has a minor use label expansion for control of these pests in that crop group. This Group 28 chemical was specifically formulated for foliar application, being rapidly absorbed into leaf tissue, after which it's movement within the plant is translaminar and locally systemic. It is most effective through ingestion of treated plant material. As such, Exirel is effective against sucking and chewing insect pests.

Velum Prime Nematicide & Fungicide:

A new Group 7 chemical from Bayer CropScience, Velum Prime is both a nematicide and a fungicide. As a fungicide, it is registered for suppression of early blight in potatoes. As a nematicide, Velum Prime is registered for suppression of labeled nematodes in potatoes and other tuberous & corm vegetables (ex: arrowroot, artichoke, ginger and sweet potato, among others). It can only be applied through drip irrigation systems. Velum Prime has preventative, systemic and curative properties.

Slug Control

Nine Reasons to Use Sluggo

Here are nine great reasons why you should use Sluggo Slug and Snail Bait to control pesky slugs in your crop.

1. Sluggo has a different active ingredient from products that contain metaldehyde.
2. The active ingredient in Sluggo will not harm children, pets, earthworms, wildlife and bees – unlike products containing metaldehyde.
3. In cool weather, Sluggo has been shown to work better than competing slug control products that contain metaldehyde.
4. The active ingredient in Sluggo is ferric phosphate, a compound commonly and naturally found in soils. Uneaten bait degrades and becomes part of the soil.
5. It is very rainfast. The pellets remain effective after rain or irrigation. Easy to use! Sluggo's smooth, clean pellets make the product very easy to handle and spread.
6. Sluggo is registered for use right within the field, right up to and beside the base of the plants. Metaldehyde products are not.
7. It is fast-acting and very effective. Slugs and snails are attracted to Sluggo and once affected, crawl away to die in secluded places.
8. Sluggo can be easily and safely blended in with your granular fertilizer for ease of use and convenience.
9. NEW low rate. Now registered for use at 11 pounds per acre.

Build Your Vocabulary

Words of the Day

Translaminar:

Refers to the movement of a pesticide from one surface of a leaf to the other. This is an advantage, especially with heavy foliage. When spraying, it is hard to assure yourself that all the leaf surfaces become covered with the spray solution. Translaminar activity means that some of what is sprayed on one side will pass through to the other side.

Rhizosphere:

The rhizosphere is the region of soil in the vicinity of plant roots in which the chemistry and microbiology is influenced by their growth, respiration, and nutrient exchange. A lot happens in the rhizosphere. This is where air and water must be in balance; where soil compaction can cause you problems. This is where nutrients are taken up, and where pH affects how that happens. Symbiotic microbes work with plant roots here. Roots are attacked by pathogens and nematodes in the rhizosphere, too. This is where the action is!