

Hoof Print

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Mane
Event
'13 Edition

Newsletter
Fall 2013

Please Take Note

New Name – Same Great Service!

Call 604-946-8338 – did you notice the name change? When you call our Delta location and ask for the Feed, Farm & Garden Store, you will no longer hear “Roddicks”. After his many years of service to the equine clientele in Delta, Ladner and surrounding area, Noel Roddick has retired. His name is retired too, so from this point forward, the name you see and hear will be, “TerraLink – Delta Division.”

You will still have access to all the same great products and staff assistance at the Delta location. So if you need to have blankets cleaned, need feed and pet food, tack, grooming gear, leather care, hoof care or wormers, we're still here!

Did you know?

TerraLink Delta doesn't only sell horse blankets, but washes, repairs and waterproofs your old ones!

Come visit us at
4119-40th Street, Delta



Disease Prevention

Virkon – A Broad Spectrum Disinfectant

Any biosecurity program to control Strangles or other equine diseases should include vaccination, medication and hygiene – a three-tiered “triangle of protection”. Practicing strict hygiene can help prevent the spread of pathogens by using Virkon – the leading disinfectant for equine pathogens. Virkon has been proven effective against a wide group of viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens that cause equine diseases, including Strangles. Virkon is best used following removal of excessive organic material from stalls, and after the use of an appropriate cleaner. Apply Virkon at the recommended rates using a backpack sprayer or other suitable device.

VirKon

Equine Show in Chilliwack!

Come see us at Mane Event!

Come and view the TerraLink “Barn Bargain Bins”. Offering discounted prices on various items such as Fly Masks and Grooming supplies. Western Tack Blowout: Bridles, Bits and Halters!

We are specialists in pasture and hay field care. Ask about our show specials on Richardson Seed Brand grass and alfalfa seed.

Ask our knowledgeable staff for advice on how to care for hay fields and pastures.

- fertilizer
- fall limestone
- weed control
- organic supplies

So come and visit us at booth # 1005 to find out what we can do for you and your horses!

Save Money and Time!

Fall Limestone Application: Makes Sense, Saves Dollars!

The best time to apply limestone to your fields is in the fall. There are two main reasons for this. First, from an agronomic point of view it makes the most sense. What happens when limestone is applied to soil? In our Fraser Valley soils there is an abundance of aluminum, which naturally reacts with water to produce hydrogen ions (H+). The presence of a concentration of H+ creates acidity. When limestone (calcium carbonate) is added to the soil, some of the calcium replaces aluminum at the cation exchange sites. Meanwhile, some of the carbonate combines with hydrogen to produce water and carbon dioxide. This reaction is not instant, especially if the limestone is not incorporated. Typically several months pass before the biggest change in pH takes place. If limestone is applied in the fall the pH should be

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

increased just in time for fertilizing time in the spring.

The second reason for applying limestone in the fall is time. The fall is typically drier than spring so fields are better able to handle the weight of spreading equipment without damaging the soil. Also, bad weather in the spring with wet soils often means we can't get to all the orders in time prior to planting. Inevitably, some are cancelled and yield and quality are compromised. It makes far more sense to do some of the spreading in the fall when we can quickly drive across dry fields.

Terralink custom spreads limestone with our big TerraGator, equipped with flotation tires and a Trimble GPS guidance system for precision spreading. We spread anywhere in the Fraser Valley, provided the fields are flat, minimum 20 acres per field, and on approved credit. Call Terralink today to custom spread limestone or fertilizer for your fields this fall.

Rodent Control

Watch for Rodents!

We aren't close to fall just yet, but you don't want to wait until the rats and mice move into your nice, warm barns for the winter before you have a plan to control them.

The best control is prevention, and to have thought out a strategy. The main key to keeping rodents under control is good hygiene in the barn. Keep your feed closed securely in rodent-proof bins, tubs or other containers, and clean up any spills right away. Keep the barn tidy, with no piles of straw that go undisturbed, giving those cheeky little guys prime real estate to set up home. If you have an adjoining tack room at the barn, make sure it is as mouse-proof as you can, and check your storage of blankets, horse towels, show costumes and other material regularly, so you don't inadvertently provide them with nice, cozy places to nest.

Ultimately, we all resort to the use of rodenticides. To use them properly, rotate between the different active ingredients. Here are the different types available from TerraLink:

Brand Name	Active Ingredient
Ratak	brodifacoum
Ramik Brown	diphacinone
Terminator	bromethalin
Hombre	difethialone

There are restrictions pertaining to whether some can be used indoors or outdoors, and you may need a Pesticide Applicators license to buy and use some of them. Licenses are available from the BC Ministry of Environment. In all instances and unless stated on the product label, all rodenticides must be placed in locking, tamper-proof bait stations (available from TerraLink). Always keep rodenticides out of the reach of children and pets. Do NOT throw rodent corpses onto the manure pile. The poison can be passed into the food chain to the detriment of owls, hawks and other predators.



Pasture Renovation

Controlling Blackberry Vines

Fall is by far and away the best time to beat up on those invasive blackberry vines. The plant that produces those huge heaps of prickly vines is actually an introduced and non-native species, called Himalayan Blackberry. It can be difficult to completely remove. Best results are obtained using the herbicide glyphosate (Touchdown, Credit, Crush'R, etc.) applied in the fall when the canes are actively moving nutrients into the roots for winter storage. Glyphosate sprayed directly on the leaves and canes is taken up and translocated through the tissue down into the root system. Tips such as painting glyphosate onto the leaves and canes for better contact, or scoring the surface of the canes with a knife may increase the chance of success with a single application. The glyphosate label should be referred to for application rates and care must be taken to avoid damage to nearby desirable plants. If non-chemical control is preferred, repeated cutting and mowing will eventually stop new growth. Removal of the crowns and larger roots will speed up the process, as well as ensuring the newly blackberry-free space is replanted with suitable materials (forage, nursery materials, etc.) In a pasture, goats are capable of grazing on blackberries at a rate to prevent further spread. This method is commonly used in Australia and New Zealand. Although

a difficult process, with persistence blackberry thickets can be eradicated using either chemical or nonchemical control methods.

Pasture Care

Control Those Weeds!

Early fall is a good time to control some of the tougher weeds in the field or pasture. Yes, spring is the best time to control young and little weeds, especially if you must use chemical herbicides. The fast-growing tender shoots on spring weeds are particularly susceptible. Fall is also a good time though, as many weeds that live through winter go through a phase of sending nutrients down into their roots in the fall, to build an energy reserve for winter. Blackberries are like this. When sprayed in the fall, this process helps carry the herbicide down into the roots for a more effective kill.

Besides blackberries, you might find some other tough-to-control weeds in patches throughout the field or along the fences. In wet areas, watch for Giant Hogweed, Water Hemlock, Purple Loosestrife or Horsetail. In the open areas you might find clumps of Tansy Ragwort or Canada Thistle. Along fence lines there could be Black Nightshade crawling up the fence along with the Himalayan Blackberries. Several of these weeds are toxic to horses. If you suspect you might have these, take photos, or bring samples. We will help you identify them. Or, call the Invasive Plant Council of BC.

If there are only a few weeds, pull them by hand. Be careful though, as the sap of Giant Hogweed will cause extremely bad burns. For small patches, use a backpack sprayer and use glyphosate to knock the plants down. Then, carefully reseed the area with pasture grass seed and hopefully you might have less, or no weeds, to deal with the next year. If your field is covered by too many of these weeds to deal with, have the field sprayed, then disced under and re-planted. You will have to plan to keep the animals off for long enough to get the field re-established.

Tansy Ragwort

