

Hoof Print

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Save on Seed

See Coupon for details.

Newsletter
Fall 2011

Richardson Seed Update

Cost of Grass Seed to Rise

The cost of pasture and hay grass is rising and expected to continue during the winter. If you are planning to re-seed or over-seed a pasture or hayfield next year, take advantage of this coupon for 10% off the retail price. It can be redeemed anywhere the following Richardson Seed brand products are sold.



RICHARDSON SEED

**10% OFF
RETAIL
PRICE**

Seed must be purchased by May 1, 2012. Maximum order 20 x 20 kg per customer. Limit one coupon per customer. Restricted to Horse Pasture Mix, Hay Baler Mix, General Pasture Mix, Alfalfa Hay Baler, Southern Interior Dryland Mix or the Triple Alfalfa Mix. Farm sales only. Valid wherever Richardson Seed is sold.

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Plant Science Lab

Get Your Soil Tested NOW!

For pastures and hayfields, a soil test is not necessary more than once every 3 of 4 years. Given the low cost per acre, it just doesn't make sense to stretch it longer than that, considering the value of the information gained by testing. For example, a Standard test package costs \$49.95, which spread over a 10 acre field is \$4.99 per acre.

A Standard test package at TerraLink's Plant Science Lab includes pH, organic matter, salts, nitrate-N, phosphate, potash, sulphur, magnesium, calcium and base saturation. Although this is sufficient, it doesn't hurt to check micronutrients every 5-6 years too. Even though grass typically doesn't respond to applications of micronutrients in the Fraser Valley, you wouldn't want your hay crop to suffer yield or quality because of some minor nutrient that has strayed a little low. The Detailed test package is more expensive but also includes sodium, zinc, boron, copper, manganese and iron.

Late fall is the best time to soil test. Why? Several reasons: except for nitrogen and sulphur, the other nutrients don't leach over winter. Nutrient levels in the fall will generally be the same in the spring. Your recommended rates for nitrogen and sulphur are based more on crop removal than soil test levels, so unless you are engaging in a Nutrient Management Plan as part of an Environmental Farm Plan, don't worry about them. Secondly, soil labs are less busy in fall than they are in the spring. Last, fall testing allows you more time to apply limestone, should the soil test indicate your field has become too acidic.

Did you know?

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

Mark the Date:

Roddick's Annual Customer Appreciation Sale "Oktoberfest" is Saturday, October 15th from 9:00 to 5:00. Join us for "Brats & Beer" (rootbeer, that is). Check out our new selection of fall & winter blankets. **Blow-out prices** on all summer & discontinued items.

Roddick Feed, Farm & Garden
4119-40th Street, Delta BC V4K 3N2
Tel. (Tack Store:) 604-946-2771

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

Rooted in your community.

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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 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. For Terralink, this means less overtime, too!

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, on approved credit. Call Terralink today to custom spread limestone or fertilizer for your fields this fall.

Rodent Control

Watch for Rodents!

As it becomes colder, any rodents who were vacationing outside will want to move into your barns and sheds. Start to watch for droppings, gnawing marks and other signs in the walls and around your stored feed. Make sure you keep all grain and feed bins covered and sealed. You could have one or more of these:



Norway Rat: A large, aggressive animal with droppings 19 mm by 6 mm. Usually found down low as it is a burrowing rat.



Roof Rat: Smaller than the Norway Rat, this animal

will spend a lot of time travelling around roof joists and up through the walls. The droppings are distinctively smaller than those of the Norway Rat.



House Mouse: It will be found just about anywhere. Droppings are small, about 3 mm.

Rodenticides Available From Terralink:

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

Hombre must be used inside and areas adjacent to homes, industrial, commercial and agricultural buildings. A pesticide Applicators License is required for the use of Hombre.

Ratak and Terminator are registered only for use indoors. A pesticide Applicators License is required for the use of Terminator.

In all instances and unless stated on the product label, rodenticides must be placed in locking, tamper-proof bait stations.



Can You Tell the Difference?

Two Similar Toxic Weeds

There are two weeds that are similar at first glance; Tansy Ragwort and Common St. John's Wort. It is important to know the difference between them. Why? Both are toxic to some degree, and Tansy Ragwort is listed under the Canadian Seeds Act as a Primary Noxious Weed. Besides being much more toxic to stock than Common St. John's Wort, Tansy is capable of causing economic damage by infesting many acres of range and pasture. We won't go into the differences in toxicity in this article, instead

focusing on how to tell the difference between the two weeds.



Tansy ragwort flowers

Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is a biennial in the sunflower family. Forming a rosette as a younger plant, it grows single stems up to a couple of meters tall from a taproot. The leaves are very deeply divided and 2 to 8 inches long, and grow alternately on the stem. Like a sunflower, the yellow flowers are of two types; central disk flowers and ray or petals. Flowers are notably clustered at the top and have more than ten petals.



St. John's Wort

Common St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) is a perennial. It grows multiple stems up to a meter long, resembling a bush. The leaves are long ovals not more than one inch in length. A very distinctive feature is the presence of tiny transparent dots on the bottom of the leaves that are apparent when held up to a light source. Flowers are the same bright yellow as Tansy Ragwort, but have always and only five petals, no central disk like a sunflowers, and have long and obvious stamens.

Now you too can tell the difference!