

Grasslands Special Edition

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

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Grass Roots

Focus on Grasslands

A typical scene on any ranch or dairy farm, the grass field says, "This is a farm." In the past, grass often formed the fundamental production unit on traditional farms, whether providing cuts for silage, bales for hay, or exercise and holding areas for cattle, sheep or horses. Today, though much has changed, much remains the same. We need to care and maintain those grassy production units, so let's review the factors involved.

The Soil:

Grass stands won't grow themselves. Like many other capital investments, ignored grass stands eventually turn into non-productive detriments. Get a soil test done routinely. pH should be in the range of 5.8 to 6.3. In Fraser Valley climatic conditions the soil acidifies over time, so you will need to have limestone applied more often. In other areas of BC, different soil types and climate imply different soil management practices. Ask for recommendations from an agronomist, but you may need to top up on manure application with several hundred pounds of fertilizer per acre. TerraLink has a soil testing lab right on site at the Abbotsford offices (the Plant Science Lab). Check our website at www.tlhort.com for more information.

Seed:

Along with soil preparation, the choice of the varieties planted in the field is also crucial. Which species and varieties to grow in the field depends on where you are, the climate, your soil type, the fate of the harvested portions, and the kind of animals to be fed. Use this chart to help select the mixes best for your situation. TerraLink has the Richardson Seed varieties suitable for every situation. Please look for our "Forage Seed Product Guide" under "Publications/Catalogues" on our website at www.tlhort.com.

Seed Application	BC Interior	Coastal & Vancouver Island
Forage Production or Hay Baling	Interior Dryland or Irrigated Mixes, Horse & Sheep Mix, Orchardgrass or Fescue Mixes, Range Mixes with Wheatgrasses, Bromegrasses, or Timothy	Orchardgrass, Fescue and Ryegrass Mixes, General Pasture Mixes, Wetland Pasture Mixes, Native Grasses, Riparian Mixes
Pasture	General Pasture Mixes, Wetland Mixes, Drought & Winterhardy Grasses	
Rangeland	General Pasture Mixes, Dryland Mixes, High Elevation Mix, Native Grasses	

Weed Control:

The first step in weed control is an assessment of the weeds that like to grow in your field. Modern herbicides can be very specific, but also expensive, so it helps to know what you have, what can be tolerated (you often don't have to kill everything) and when application of chemicals is necessary. For new seedings, weed control is very important. For established stands, often selective control of problem spots, mowing, and heavy over-seeding may suffice so chemicals may not always be required. When you have to resort to chemical control, here are some choices.



Sword

Still an old standby, Sword is a mix of MCPA, mecoprop and dicamba. It can be used at the 2-4 leaf stage of new seedings.

Refine SG

Refine SG controls or suppresses a total of 29 broadleaf weeds. It controls two tough weeds; dandelions and clover. MCPA can be added to Refine SG for an extra punch.

DyVel DS

Like Sword, DyVel DS is a "three-way" herbicide but contains a different mix – dicamba, mecoprop and 2,4-D. It is better on established grass stands as it has a higher level of dicamba in it.

MCPA

An old chemical, MCPA is nevertheless useful against weeds in the mustard family as well as a wide range of other weeds.

2,4-D

Like MCPA, this is an old stand-by, being useful on many broadleaf weeds in new or established plantings. It is also good against dandelions.

Lontrel 360

This is a specialty herbicide. Lontrel 360 doesn't control very many families of weeds but is really good on the ones it does control. Lontrel 360 controls any weeds in the legume family (such as clover) and composite family (like thistles). It also gets scentless chamomile, common groundsel and wild buckwheat.

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

Specialty Crop Inputs for Grass Stands:

NEW – Homogeneous Micronutrients!

TerraLink now has the ability to supply fertilizer to forage producers that contains homogenous micronutrients. Although new to BC through TerraLink, this is an established process and product elsewhere in North America and worldwide. It is not new, and it works. Also, this product has been approved by, and therefore endorsed by the CFIA. Previously, each micronutrient had to be independently blended into fertilizers during the mixing process at TerraLink. Now, TerraLink can apply B, Zn or any other micronutrients directly onto the granules of N, P and K in the fertilizer blend. This means several things:

- First, micronutrients can now be distributed everywhere the NPK fertilizer has been applied, because there are micronutrients attached consistently to every granule.
- Micronutrients are much more available to the roots of the plants, leading to the opportunity for better, more uniform uptake, yield and quality. This process provides up to 50 times the interception points for roots to access micronutrients, compared to the previous method with granular micronutrients.
- Because of the above two points, less micronutrients are now necessary to add to your blend, due to the increased availability of micronutrients to the crop from more efficient distribution in the root zone.

Call TerraLink today to order your fertilizer with homogenous micronutrients and take advantage of this new technology.



Avail® Phosphorus Enhancer

A water-soluble additive for granular or liquid phosphorus fertilizer that enables phosphate to remain free in the soil, Avail® provides the opportunity for greater plant uptake with minimal costs. It is cheaper to use Avail® than not to use it. Ask for it when you place your fertilizer order.



allow water to diffuse into the granule, dissolving the N within. The benefit of ESN is because of the longer release, nitrogen becomes available more suited to when your grass needs it. The result is less loss of nitrogen by leaching and volatilization. Also, fewer applications are required, which means savings on fuel and less soil compaction.

Agrotain Urease Inhibitor

Agrotain works by inhibiting the action of urease, an enzyme that facilitates the breakdown of urea in soil to ammonium. If ammonium nitrogen is not taken up by grass plants it can be lost to the atmosphere as ammonia. Agrotain slows this process, resulting in less being volatilized and more going to your crop. Ask for Agrotain treatment when you order your spring and summer fertilizer.



As we know, selenium combats health issues in stock animals. Selcote Ultra® granules are engineered in a combination of both slow release and fast release selenium. It is meant to be mixed with granular fertilizer and thereby spread onto forage and pasturelands. It is taken up by the crop, and ingested naturally by stock in their feed. This is the best natural method to increase blood selenium levels in dairy cattle and sheep. Test your soil and stock blood levels of Se prior to application. Ask for Selcote Ultra® treated granular fertilizer when you place your order.

ESN Slow Release Nitrogen



ESN is a urea granule coated with polyurethane. It is engineered to

Improve Stock Health with Selcote Ultra®

SELCOTE ULTRA

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