

# Hoof Print

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Mane  
Event  
Edition

## Better Pastures

### Overhaul That Field

Sometimes the best way to remedy a problem field that is compacted and overgrown in weeds is to tear it out and re-plant it. This can be done in fall or spring. If you don't have the equipment to plow, disc and re-seed, ask amongst the neighboring farms. Often, one of them will be happy to custom cultivate and re-plant for you.

Take soil samples for lab testing. TerraLink's Plant Science Lab in Abbotsford will do it quickly, and the staff at the Sales Desk can give you a recommendation for fertilizer and lime. Farms in the Fraser Valley may need liming at this time, since the soils become acidic naturally from heavy rainfall and leaching. Ask the staff for the best varieties of seed for your soils, climate and needs. Varieties that are best for hay production aren't necessarily the best ones for pasturing.

## 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.

## Fall Control of Blackberry

### Blackberry Control

The highly invasive blackberry bush (or brambles) can be difficult to completely remove. Best results are obtained with the herbicide glyphosate (RoundUp, Credit, etc.) applied in the fall when the canes are actively moving nutrients into the roots for winter storage. Glyphosate is 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

Come see us  
at Mane Event!

Come and view the Roddick "Barn Bargain Bins". Offering discounted prices on various smaller items such as polo wraps. On display will be Mudruckers waterproof boots and Crusader Fly Masks.

Free samples of Feel Good Treats available.

Enter our draw for a fabulous prize basket featuring grooming products in a grooming tote.

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

Visit us at booth # 1005!

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 non-chemical control methods.

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

## 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 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.



## Toxic Weeds

# Water Hemlock

Although it is related to parsley, Water Hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*) is one of the most poisonous plants in our region. It thrives in wet places such as riparian zones and poorly drained areas throughout BC, and should be watched for in wet pastures. It is a large, robust plant that grows up to about two meters and has hollow, jointed stems. The leaves are shaped like a long oval and are coarsely saw-toothed. The flowers are small and white, borne in clusters. A distinguishing feature is an enlarged or bulbous taproot, which has hollow chambers containing an extremely dangerous toxin called cicutoxin. Another similar plant, Cow Parsnip, does not have saw-toothed leaves, is a larger plant and does not have a bulbous root.

As is the case with many noxious plants, generally stock animals will only graze Water Hemlock if other plant material is sparse. Thus animals are in the most danger in wet pastures that have been over-grazed. Poisonings have been reported in early spring on the young shoots when there is little other pasture growth, or in the fall when the poison-containing roots are easily pulled from the ground. Cases have occurred with horses, cattle, sheep, goats and bison, however because of their pulling action cattle are the most susceptible. When poisoned, animals can succumb very quickly; within 15 minutes or so. If found alive, symptoms such as convulsions, frothing, and clamping of jaws may be evident. A veterinarian should be contacted of course, however apparently no specific antidote exists.



Chemical weed control is available, but since there is normally a sparse population when Water Hemlock is present, it makes more sense to manually pull the plants. Dispose by composting. Do not leave dead plants lying where they were pulled, especially if they are past flowering. Make sure to wear gloves, long sleeves and eye protection when handling the plants to prevent skin irritation.