

Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Country Life
Insert

Spring 2015

Soil Conditioning

Bulk Fertilizer & Custom Lime Spreading in the Fraser Valley

Because of our high rainfall in the Fraser Valley, native soils become acidic over time. Most crops prefer a higher pH range so the soil must be adjusted with a limestone. The soil pH level affects how well nutrients are taken up by plants. When soil pH is not in an optimum range for nutrient uptake some of the money spent on fertilizer will be wasted. To see this graphically, see Figure #1.

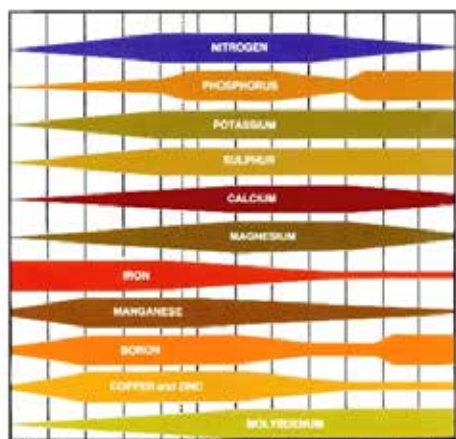


Figure 1

For most crops, an application of 1 – 2 tonnes per acre will bring soil pH into an optimum range between pH 5.5 – 6.5.

Start with a soil test, which can be done quickly and

conveniently at TerraLink's Plant Science Lab at our Abbotsford location. The test results will help pinpoint how much limestone is required.

Note: Minimum order 20 tonnes per location for most Fraser Valley areas.

Order Now!

Corn Seed Still Available

With the exception of our Mycogen BMR Corn seed that is now sold out for the 2015 season, TerraLink still has a good variety of corn seed suited to our Fraser Valley climates and heat units.

Hyland HL 3085 – 2275 CHU, relative maturity 79. A grain corn that has a medium to tall plant with good standability and stalk quality. It has excellent ear consistency, attractive grain and very good test weight.

Hyland HL 3093 – 2300 CHU, relative maturity 78. A grain or silage corn variety with good early vigour and consistent performance across variable environments. It has a very good test weight and excellent ear consistency.

Hyland HL SR22 – 2400-2650 CHU. High energy silage, high tonnage & high digestibility. Does best in Agassiz and the Interior, although it looked well in both our local trials in Abbotsford and Agassiz. Excellent feed quality.

Hyland HL SR35 – 2500-2750 CHU. A high tonnage, robust plant type with broad leaves. HLSR produces a high weight of milk on a per acre basis.

Hyland HLR 219 – 2400 CHU. Excellent yield potential. Semi-upright leaves, husk slightly open. Very good grain content. Tall plant, averaging 10-11 feet. Has been grown with excellent results for the past two years. Very good yields, as much as 30 tonnes/acre fresh weight.

Hyland HLSR 011 – 2825 CHU. High energy silage, high tonnage, high digestibility. Does best in Agassiz and the Interior. Excellent feed quality.

A TSA# is needed to purchase Roundup Ready corn.

Helpful Advice from Richardson Seed

How to Seed or Overseed Pasture

The best time to seed is in spring and fall. Avoid seeding in the heat of summer or when in danger of frost. Consistent soil temperatures should be about 8-10°C (or when daytime temperatures reach 15-20°C).

Prepare field for seeding. Perform tillage and weed control before seeding.* If tillage is performed, be sure the resulting seed bed is fine and firm, free of ruts and ridges, without being compacted. Have the soil tested to determine fertilizer and lime requirements, which may be applied before or at the time of seeding.

Broadcast or drill a specially formulated forage seed mix at the recommended seeding rate. If broadcasting, be sure the seed makes firm contact with the soil. A chain harrow can be used, ensuring the seed isn't buried more than ¼ inch. Some species may germinate within 10 days, whereas other species may require 4 weeks to germinate.

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

Keep the area moist through establishment and in dry seasons. Irrigate as needed, and if irrigation is not available, seed should be applied before anticipated rainfall.

Grass takes a year to become fully established and it is advisable to restrict grazing in the first season. Grazing should start when plants reach 8-12 inches and the pasture should not be grazed shorter than 3 inches.

It is recommended to have the soil tested on an annual basis and fertilizer and lime applied as needed. Depending on field conditions, annual weed control and overseeding may also be necessary.

*Always follow the directions on the chemical labels.



Now Available

Bunker and Silage Plastics

New to TerraLink in the Fall of 2014 is a whole range of Silage Plastics.

We now carry either pre-filled or empty bunker bags, bunker covers or tarps, bunker plastics and silage wrap.

Bunker Bags

These hold down your bunker plastic layers and help prevent feed spoilage due to oxygen incursion. Sausage-shaped, the bags are available either empty, or pre-filled, sold by each or by the skid-lot.

Our pre-filled Bunker Bags contain limestone instead of gravel, so any bags that break and mix with your silage, although annoying, won't be harmful to your cows. Unlike gravel, limestone (or calcium carbonate) is not harmful when ingested. Also, the contents of broken bags may be tossed into the manure pit or directly onto the fields, where limestone will benefit the soil.

Bunker Covers / Tarps

Our bunker covers and tarps are UV stabilized to protect the bunker plastic from ultraviolet light. These covers are available in two sizes: 12' x 300' and 15' x 300'.

Bunker Plastic

5 MIL thick and available in three sizes: 40' X 100', 33' x 100' and 24' x 100'. Black on one side and white on the other to reflect light and reduce heat buildup.

Silage Wrap

Benepak silage bale wrap is a multi-layered, co-extruded quality film with superior stretch characteristics. Benepak silage wrap has high tear and puncture resistance. High adhesive strength for perfectly sealed bale wrapping and optimal silage quality. This silage wrap is manufactured with UV stabilizers that provide 12 months of UV radiation protection. It is available in white or green.

Coming soon:

Oxygen barrier plastics

Richardson Seed Forage Mixes & Custom Seed Blends



Pasture Mixes	Growing Area	Drought Tolerance	Flooding Tolerance	Silage	Hay	Drill Seeding Rate (lb/acre)	Comments
General Pasture	I,C	Moderate	Moderate-High	E	F	30-35	Formerly "Econoland" seed mix. Good standard pasture mix. No clover.
General Pasture with Clover	I,C	Moderate	Moderate-High	E	F	30-35	General Pasture mix plus the added nutrition and nitrogen fixation of white clover.
Horse & Sheep Pasture	I,C	Moderate-High	High	E	G	30-44	Designed for horse nutrition needs. Tolerates close grazing habits of horse and sheep.
Wetland Pasture	I,C	Low-Moderate	Very High	E	E	20-25	Tolerates water-logged soils. Good feed value.

Coastal Forage Mixes	Growing Area	Drought Tolerance	Flooding Tolerance	Silage	Hay	Drill Seeding Rate (lb/acre)	Comments
Orchardgrass Blend	C	Low-Moderate	Moderate	E	E	30-35	Quality mix, containing small amount of ryegrass.
Orchardgrass/Tall Fescue Blend	C	Moderate	Moderate	E	E	30-35	Quality mix of orchardgrasses & tall fescue.
Premium Tall Fescue	C	Moderate	High	E	E	30-35	Top quality mix of tall fescues only.
Premium Ryegrass	C	Low-Moderate	Moderate	E	F	30-35	Top quality mix, containing some timothy.
Hay Baler	C	Low-Moderate	Moderate	E	E	30-35	High performance mix, producing top quality hay.

I=Interior BC C=Coastal BC E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair

Mixes which contain legumes may cause bloat when grazed by ruminants. Graze with caution.

For broadcast seeding or overseeding, increase "Drill Seeding Rate" by 30%.

Custom blends are available upon request. Please contact TerraLink directly to discuss your needs.