

# Hoof Print

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Protect Your  
Horses from  
nEHV-1 Virus  
See attached brochure

Newsletter  
June 2011

## Equine Diseases

### nEHV-1 Virus in British Columbia

As you are probably aware, cases of the Equine Herpes Virus (nEHV-1) have been confirmed in BC. Horse shows throughout the province have been cancelled and many Equestrian centers have voluntarily quarantined their facilities due to this outbreak. nEHV-1 is a highly infectious disease that is passed between horses through nose to nose contact and contact with items like brushes and human hands. nEHV-1 can cause respiratory disease, abortion, neonatal death and may lead to the more serious Equine Herpes Virus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) neurological infection. nEHV-1 was first detected in a cutting horse show in Utah in late April. According to Equine Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) says nEHV-1 is not a federally controlled disease, meaning it has no authority for demanding border certificates for horses coming north from the US.



Prevention of an epidemic outbreak is contingent on containment (quarantine measures) and effective biosecurity. Practicing strict hygiene will help prevent the spread of nEHV-1 by using Virkon, the leading

disinfectant for equine pathogens, and Biosentry 904. These are well known disinfectants that have proven effective against a wide group of viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens that cause equine disease. Virkon can easily be applied on equipment and inside stalls with a simple hand-held sprayer after removing excessive organic material from the stalls.


People coming onto a farm must sanitize their hands and clothing before contact with any horses. Disinfectant mats are a good idea for outside the infected horse's stalls to avoid transfer from footwear. TerraLink also supplies disinfection mats and disposable coveralls for use if you are in a high risk situation.

## Pasture & Hay


### Richardson Seed Grass Seed Blends

Like many producers in the area, you may need to seed or overseed your fields this spring due to the extremely cold wet spring and perhaps some overgrazing last season. TerraLink offers a full line of Richardson Seed forage mixes that can be used for seeding a new field or overseeding and existing one.

#### Horse and Sheep Pasture Mix


 This is our most popular choice for horse owners. Formulated to meet the nutritional needs of horses, this mix tolerates close grazing and it can be cut for hay. It does really well throughout the province, from the coastal areas to the interior.

#### General Pasture Mix

 Do you have some cows as well as horses? This is the mix for you. Suited

to a hobby farm that has a bit of everything, this blend is meant for mixed grazing. Quick regrowth and a good mix of species to keep all the animals well fed, this mix is adaptable throughout BC climates.

#### Hay Baler Mix

 This mix is a high performance blend for high quality hay production. Containing a large portion of orchardgrass, to which timothy and tall fescue have been added, this mix provides excellent feed value. A small percentage of annual ryegrass has also been added to act as a nurse crop until the stand gets established. The components of this mix have been selected with productivity and palatability in mind to produce top-quality haylage.

Please contact us for more detailed information about these mixes or to enquire about custom blends.

\*Richardson Seed forage mixtures do not contain endophyte-enhanced grasses.

## Pasture Care

### How to Fertilize Your Field

If you haven't done so for a few years, the first thing to do before digging out the fertilizer spreader from behind the horse trailer is send a soil sample to TerraLink's lab. It really is worth the expense, being only \$34.95 for a Basic Analysis when you bring a sample to TerraLink in Abbotsford or drop it at the Delta office. For that price you get nitrogen, phosphorous, potash, sulphur, pH, organic matter, moisture content and electrical conductivity. It will tell you all you need to know for the next couple of years for a hay field or pasture.

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

## Established Fields

If you have no soil test, apply limestone at 1 tonne per acre. In our high-rainfall conditions our soils acidify naturally. If you are applying manure, do it next, and in a month afterwards broadcast 18-18-18 at 300 lbs per acre. If you are not applying manure, apply 18-18-18 at 300 lbs per acre right away. If you are haying the field, apply another 300 lbs per acre after each cut. If you don't have irrigation, apply the fertilizer just before it rains. If it doesn't rain don't waste your money on the fertilizer.

## New Plantings

Replanting a field gives you a chance to open the soil. Not only do you have the advantage of re-seeding, you can also apply much more limestone as you can cultivate it into the rooting zone of the grass. Second, you can apply a higher phosphate planter fertilizer which is much more efficient in terms of establishing a strong root zone. Broadcast and cultivate in 14-28-6+micronutrients or a similar planter blend at 200 lbs per acre. Then go ahead and seed the field. In 4-6 weeks apply 18-18-18 at 300 lbs per acre. After that, repeat as you would an established field. For new plantings, it is best to keep the stock off the field for the season so the hooves won't tear up the new sod.

## Toxic Weeds

# Black Nightshade

Black Nightshade (*Solanum americanum*) is an annual/short lived perennial herb. It grows to a maximum height of 1.2 m and has white/pale blue flowers borne in bunches. Leaves alternate on the stem and have wavy edges. When the plant is mature the leaves look rather like tomato leaves. Black Nightshade also produces round berries that are green when immature and black when mature. This plant has a taproot root system.

Black Nightshade can be found all throughout the province including Vancouver Island. It is commonly found on disturbed sites, such as roadsides, gardens and cultivated fields. It can easily be found in commercial fields all over the Fraser Valley. This weed normally blooms in mid-June and the berries are usually developed by mid-late July. Each plant is capable of producing thousands of seeds, which can last in the soil for a number of years. They are commonly dispersed by humans and wild animals such as birds and rodents.

Most of the plant parts contain glycoalkaloids which are poisonous to humans, and animals such as cattle, sheep,

goats, chickens and pigs. It is generally accepted that the green berries are the most poisonous part of the plant.



*Black Nightshade with immature and mature berries.*

Control of Black Nightshade can be achieved mechanically through repeated mowing and cultivation or pulled by hand if there are only a few. Chemical control with glyphosate and dicamba has also been shown to be effective, depending on what crop the weed is in.

### References

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/weedsbc/pdf/black\\_nightshade.pdf](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/weedsbc/pdf/black_nightshade.pdf)

[http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/ppack.jump?p\\_psn=56&p\\_type=all](http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/ppack.jump?p_psn=56&p_type=all)

## It's Your Choice

# Organic Products Available

For those of us who would rather not use pesticides or conventional fertilizer on the pasture or hay field, TerraLink also stocks a wide range of organic products. For control of weeds or rodents it's not so easy, but there are several organic or natural choices for fertilizer and control of barn flies.

### Biological Control of Barn Flies

This isn't new. Commercial dairy and poultry operations have been using biological controls for fly control for years. It's easy! Fly parasites called parasitic wasps are very tiny and completely safe to humans and animals. They won't sting you or the horses. The adult parasitic wasp searches fly breeding areas for fly pupae. Once found, the wasp drills a hole through the armoured wall of the puparia and lays an egg on the fly pupa inside. The parasite egg hatches and the immature wasp eats and kills the developing fly pupa. After feeding on the dead fly, a new adult wasp emerges in 2-3 weeks, which then goes on to find and parasitize more fly pupae. Each

female fly parasitic wasp will kill about 100 fly pupae in its lifetime. For more information or to order, contact TerraLink.

### Organic Fertilizer

The first choice and least expensive natural fertilizer you can use on pastures and hay fields is manure. It doesn't have to be horse manure; any will do. It is best if you know the nutritional content so you don't over-do it; you don't want excess nitrogen or phosphorous to run off into a waterway or leach into the aquifer below you. If you haven't got a lab test to tell you the nutrient content, call TerraLink or the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. If manure is not available, TerraLink stocks a wide range of organic fertilizer, both dry and liquid. Call us for details!

### Convenient Location

# Products Available at Two Locations!

Don't forget, you can buy products for your pasture and barns from TerraLink at two locations: at the Abbotsford head office at 464 Riverside Road, or at Roddick Fertilizers at 4119-40th Street in Delta. If you farm in the Cloverdale area or to the west, the Delta location may be faster for you than coming out to Abbotsford or waiting for a delivery. All major products are stocked in Delta in-season, and the friendly staff there can help you just like in Abbotsford. Come in any time, or call ahead: 1-800-661-4559 at Abbotsford and 604-946-8338 at Delta.

