

Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Progressive
Dairy
Insert

Summer 2014

CHECK LIST:

- ✓ Order silage corn seed for 2015
- ✓ Don't forget soil tests
- ✓ Have lime applied to corn fields
- ✓ Order bunker plastic and bunker cover tarps
- ✓ Order pre-filled bunker cover weight bags

Corn Seed

Start Planning for Silage Corn Needs

For 2015 TerraLink is happy to offer silage corn from two very reputable seed suppliers: Hyland and Syngenta. Watch for more information on varieties, programs, traits and features in the next month or two.

SYNGENTA CORN SEED:



TerraLink Horticulture Inc. is now a distributor for

Syngenta Corn Seed in British Columbia. In addition to many of their well known agricultural products, whether pest controls, seed or biological controls, Syngenta Corn Seed is now also available from TerraLink and selected TerraLink dealer partners across the province.

HYLAND CORN SEED:



Despite all the recent changes in seed technology, producers have learned there is one thing they can count on is the constant high performance

of Hyland Corn Seed. Choose between proven varieties for your 2015 needs.

Contact us at 1-800-661-4559 for more information.

Fall Seed

Book Your Cover Crop Seed

As harvest time approaches, don't forget to spend some time planning the cover crop to follow the corn. We will have lots of seed under our proven Richardson Seed brand to choose from.

Cereals & Legumes:

- Fall Rye
- Winter Wheat
- Barley
- Oats
- Winter Triticale
- Winter Peas
- Spring or Winter Vetch

Grasses:

- Annual Ryegrass, diploid or tetraploid
- Italian Ryegrass, tetraploid
- TL Brand Westerwold-type Ryegrass
- Winter Wheat & Italian Ryegrass Mix
- Legume & Fall Rye Mix

Custom mixes on request.

New from TerraLink!

Freshstall^K Bedding Conditioner

Freshstall^K is a unique blend of ingredients that are designed to reduce ammonia emissions and help aerobically break down the litter. It can replace hydrated lime in calf pens, comfort stalls and maternity pens. The unique, non-caustic chemical nature of Freshstall^K helps absorb moisture and urine in the bedding, thereby improving the barn environment. It is also a good soil conditioner and can be safely spread onto the land.

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

Plant Science Lab Soil Testing

In both forage grass and silage corn, a soil test is not necessary more than once every couple of years. Given the low cost per acre, it just doesn't make sense to stretch it longer than that, given 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. Over a 30 acre field the cost is only \$1.67 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 and corn typically don't respond to applications of micronutrients (in the Fraser Valley, at least) you wouldn't want your 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.

Fall is the best time to soil test. Why? Several reasons: except for nitrogen and sulphur, the other nutrients don't leach over winter, what is tested in the fall is what is present 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, part of an Environmental Farm Plan, don't worry about them. Second, both the labs and the folks who conduct soil testing are less busy 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, as it is always drier in the fall.

Save Money!

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. Application can be timed right after the last cut of grass or directly following corn harvest. 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!

New From TerraLink!

New Bunker Plastics

New Bunker Plastic Sizes!

We now have 3 sizes of 5 mil bunker plastic covers:

- Bunker Plastic 40' x 100'
- Bunker Plastic 25' x 100'
- Bunker Plastic 33' x 100'

New to TerraLink: Bunker Tarps!

Protect your bunker plastic with TerraLink's new Bunker Tarp/Cover. Made of thick woven poly, these covers will add an extra layer of protection to your bunker plastic. Prevent loss of feed with this U.V. stabilized product. Two sizes available:

- Bunker Cover/Tarp 12' x 300'
- Bunker Cover/Tarp 15' x 300'

New to TerraLink: Bunker Bags!

You can now buy pre-filled bags to keep your

bunker plastic and tarps secured. Buy them singly or in skid-lots of 25 x 20 kg bags.

Cover Crops

Brassica Cover Crops

The Brassica group of cover crops include various species such as mustards, radishes, turnips and others. Brassicas are used as a fall and winter cover crop and can be used effectively for weed control and pest suppression. In other parts of the world, brassicas are put to use as feed for cattle and other stock animals. Brassicas grow rapidly and produce large amounts of biomass and some grow thick roots that help to alleviate compaction by leaving large empty channels in the soil after decomposition, allowing some growers to operate as no-till and earning some types of radishes the nickname "tillage radish".

Radishes

One of the most up-and-coming brassica cover crops is the radish. Under ideal conditions, these large-rooted plants, similar to daikon-types, can grow a one meter root with a 30cm section that can be 2cm thick in only a couple of months. Upon winterkill and decomposition, root-channels can be left open at the surface, improving air and water movement and overall soil quality.

Radishes provide very effective weed control. When seeded at a high rate and into a clean seed bed, weeds can be well suppressed due to rapid growth and the ability to out-compete for nutrients and moisture. Radishes take up nutrients extremely well and can scavenge nitrogen deep in the soil and bring it up to the surface into its leaves and stems.

There may be some potential to incorporate radishes into plans to manage nematode populations. In the lab, radish residue has been shown to negatively affect the survival of plant parasitic nematodes, while the high nitrogen content of the residue may positively affect beneficial nematodes.

Radishes should be planted 6 weeks before regular frosts, but not into areas of really wet soils. As well, radishes produce a very strong odor while decomposing and that should be considered when choosing a site for seeding.



Turnips

Very similar to radishes, are turnips. Other than possible differences in the amount of mass produced in the leaves and roots, there are a few others. Unlike radishes, turnips may have very little of the bulb in the soil, resulting in less soil activity. Also, turnips are more winter hardy and may need to be killed in spring – this could be a positive or a negative difference depending on the producer and the situation. Finally, turnips do not produce the same strong odour upon decomposition as radishes do.

Mustard

Often put in a group separate from other brassicas, mustards are similar to radishes and turnips, except they do not produce the same thick root that the others do, so they are not usually used to relieve compacted soils. They are seeded to suppress nematodes and to provide organic matter, improving soil quality.

Call TerraLink Horticulture to find out more about the brassicas that are part of the Richardson Seed lineup of cover crops. Ask about the Nitro Radish, Purple-top and Stubble Turnips and Braco White Mustard.

References: *Radishes – A New Cover Crop for Organic Farming Systems.* (2014, March 11). Retrieved from <http://www.extension.org/pages/64400/radishes-a-new-cover-crop-for-organic-farming-systems#.U9gZFfdWCl>

Cover Crop Turnips – A Good Choice Over Radishes? (2012, April 14). Retrieved from <http://plantcovercrops.com/cover-crop-turnips-a-good-choice-over-radishes/>

Environment

Obsolete Pesticide Collection

CleanFARMS is a national industry association that collects and safely disposes of unwanted or otherwise obsolete agricultural pesticide products, ensuring farmers have an environmentally responsible disposal option. The collection programs are delivered in each province every three years.

The Obsolete Pesticide Collection is scheduled for this Fall in the Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island. Dates are pending and will be announced when we know more.

To better manage the obsolete collection program CleanFARMS is asking program participants to pre-register products they will be turning in. Visit www.cleanfarms.ca for more information.

What products WILL be accepted?

Obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides, identified with a Pest Control Product number or label.

CleanFARMS has a no questions asked policy and ALL products that fit the scope of the products destined for collection will be accepted regardless of their origin.

If there is no label, identify the container as “unknown pesticide” and ensure the container is not leaking.

What products WILL NOT be accepted?

Empty pesticide containers*, fertilizer, adjuvants, spray tank rinsate, treated seed, domestic pesticides, paints, thinners, waste oils, disinfectants and sanitizers or any other household hazardous waste. Please contact your local municipality for disposal options for these products.

*CleanFARMS also operates a container-ONLY collection program on an ongoing basis. Call TerraLink's sales desk at 1-800-661-4559 for more info. If you are unsure whether your product is eligible for disposal, please contact CleanFARMS at 877-622-4460 or www.cleanfarms.ca.

Recycle your empty pesticide containers

IT'S FREE AND EASY!



RINSE

Triple or pressure RINSE



REMOVE

Caps and booklet, leave the label on



RETURN

To your local collection site

CleanFARMSTM

Visit www.cleanfarms.ca
to find the collection site nearest you.

EVERY CROP NEEDS A SUPERHERO.

Someone who fights for higher yields, giving crops the nutrients they need when they're needed most. Someone who trusts field-proven technologies to more effectively feed crops, save time and boost the bottom line. Be a superhero. Ask your retailer for Wolf Trax Innovative Nutrients.

Better nutrition. Better crops. Better farming.



TerraLink www.tlhort.com
1-800-661-4559

©2014 Wolf Trax® is a registered trademark of Wolf Trax, Inc. Not all products are registered in all areas.
Contact infomaster@wolftrax.com for more information. 22716


wolftrax[®]
INNOVATIVE NUTRIENTS

TerraLink Horticulture Inc., 464 Riverside Road, Abbotsford, BC, V2S 7M1
Toll Free: 1-800-661-4559 www.tlhort.com

TerraLink