Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Winter 2015

2015 Corn Silage Hybrid Trials

Dow Seeds™ Hybrids at PFCA Trials

Dow Seeds™ corn silage hybrids were one of the top performers at the Pacific Field Corn Association Trials held in 2015 at Agassiz, Abbotsford and Enderby.

Dow Seeds™ corn silage hybrids TMF8106 and HL SR35 ranked very high amongst 27 varieties for relative yield and % grain content at these trials. At the same time, they performed quite well in other important traits such as grain quality and lodging.

Higher Corn Digestibility

More Milk with BMR

Brown midrib (BMR silage corn) hybrids are named after a naturally occurring gene that reduces lignin in the cornstalk. Not all of today's BMR hybrids give you the same potential for success. Dow Seeds™ brand BMR hybrids are unique because they contain the superior bm3 gene. Lechtenberg et al, Ostrander, et al. and Marita et al in separate experiments all demonstrated bm3 as having the highest digestibility of all BMR genes. The result is higher fiber digestibility and the potential for greater dry matter intake (DMI) and more milk.

Several scientific reports demonstrated the superiority of BMR Hybrids in milk production. Cows fed Dow Seeds™ BMR corn produce an average of 4.8 pounds more milk per day. BMR Corn has proven itself to increase not only milk production, but also lowering feed costs and improving herd health. You get a higher return on Investment with BMR corn and ultimately more profit.

Recommended varieties for the Fraser Valley are F2F298 AND F2F343.

BMR Corn Hybrids

Five steps for success with BMR

Follow these steps to maximize the benefits of Dow Seeds™ brand BMR corn silage in your operation:

1. Work closely with your feed sales representative to:
   - Plan how you will incorporate BMR into your ration – even before the first seed is planted.
   - Select your best fields for planting BMR and provide adequate fertility.
2. Harvest at the proper moisture level and cut length.
3. Pack thoroughly and securely cover BMR silage for proper ensiling.
4. Work closely with your nutritionist to formulate rations.
5. Monitor cow health and performance and evaluate results from feeding this highly digestible forage.

(Source: Dow Seeds™ BMR Corn Silage Management Guide)

2016 Corn Booking Program

Early Booking Discount

TerraLink is now taking orders for the 2016 forage corn season. If you book before December 15th, 2015, you will receive a 5% discount on your corn order. Field corn is typically a special order and must be ordered by February 1st for the season.

Certain varieties may require either a Monsanto TSA # or a Dow TSA #. All TSA information is required before orders will be delivered. Conventional and BMR (Brown Mid-Rib) corn varieties are also available.

Varieties	Crop Heat Units	Relative Maturity
3085	CHU 2275	RM 77
3093	CHU 2300	RM 78
8105RA (For trial)	CHU 2400	RM 80
HLR219	CHU 2350	RM 82
TMF 8106RA (New)	CHU 2425	RM 82
HLS 4120	CHU 2500	RM 84
TMF 86H77RA (New)	CHU 2550	RM 86
F2F298 (BMR)	CHU 2600	RM 90
F2F343 (BMR)	CHU 2700	RM 93
SR35	CHU 2750	RM 90
2164 (Conventional)	CHU 2500	RM 83

Helpful Tools

Visit Our Website!

If you haven't been on our website for a while, take a moment and check out **www.tlhort.com** today! It's really easy to find a Product Label or a Material Safety Data Sheet. Simply use the search function. Want to know about a specific product? Use the menu bar on the left side, or again, use the search function. To make life easier, you can choose your specialty on the right side, then save that page to favorites. Link to a supplier site for more information on a product. Or, choose a technical link to use a converter tool, or try the PMRA's new buffer zone reduction calculator. Even better, dive into our library of agri advisors and newsletters to access current or previous publications and articles.

Rodent Control

Rodenticides: Use Restrictions

The Government issued new use restrictions for Commercial Class Rodenticides in agriculture that took effect as of January 1st, 2013. In previous years, TerraLink produced several brochures outlining the upcoming changes, and other brochures to help to more accurately identify which types of rodents may be causing problems in different agricultural settings; such as in the field as opposed to around or in farm buildings (see our web site www.tlhort.com; use the search box to find these). The reasons for the changes are related to the prevention of accidental exposure of children and non-target animals on the farm, and to reduce the chances of poisoning wildlife such as owls and other predators. Requirements are based on the placement of bait, which now must be either placed in secure bait stations, or otherwise put in areas not accessible to children, pets, livestock and non-target wildlife.

Silage Plastics and More

TerraLink's Bunk Fresh Product Line

TerraLink's BunkFresh Silage plastics assist dairymen and ranchers in optimal silage storage. Contact the TerraLink Sales Desk at 1-800-661-4559 for more info on this line of products.

Product	SKU #	Size	Description
BunkFresh Plastic Bunker Cover Roll	3774185	40' x 100' 6mil B/W	Primary covering on bunker silage. Protects fodder by eliminating exposure to light, air and water.
	3774820	40' x 150' 6mil B/W	
	3774830	50' x 150' 6mil B/W	
	3774840	120' x 200' 6mil B/W	
BunkFresh UV Protective Cover Tarp Multiple Uses	3773210	20' x 25'	Tough polyethylene woven design to protect fodder while providing an extra layer of protection from mechanical damage.
	3773220	30' x 35'	
	3773230	40' x 45'	
	3773240	50' x 55'	
BunkFresh Sidewall Liner	3774660	25' x 100'	For a clean side wall surface between the bunker wall and silage. Results in less feed spoilage.
	3774650	40' x 100'	
	3774690	33' x 100'	
BunkFresh O2 Barrier Film	3773250	23' x 164'	Oxygen barrier to improve freshness in silage by reducing oxygen penetration. Clear, co-extruded 5 layer blown film.
	3773260	33' x 164'	
	3773270	43' x 164'	
	3773280	53' x 164'	
BunkFresh Bunker Bags	7110473	Unit, 1 x 20kg	Used to weigh down plastics and tarps. Pre-filled with granular limestone.
	7110474	Skid-lot, 25 x 20kg	Buy pre-filled bags in units of 25
	3774950	Bundle of 50 unfilled	Buy empty bags to fill on the farm
Silage Wrap, White	3774100	75cm x 1500m	UV radiation protection for 12 months. Multi-layered, co-extruded quality film for optimal silage quality.
Silage Wrap, Green	3774200	75cm x 1500m	
Silage Bale Net	3774300	48" x 9842ft	Use where nets are required prior to bale wrap application.
Silage Inoculant	3425150	500g	One package treats 500 tonnes of silage. For corn or grass.

Plant Science Lab

Time for a Soil Test?

On a dairy farm a soil test is not necessary more than once every two 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 $53.50, which spread over a 10 acre field is $5.35 per acre. Over a 30 acre field the cost is only $1.78 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. It doesn't hurt to check micronutrients too. Even though grass and corn typically don't respond to applications of micronutrients in the Fraser Valley, you don't want your crop to suffer in yield or quality because of some minor nutrient that has strayed a little low.

Why is winter the best time for a soil test? Except for nitrogen and sulphur, the other nutrients don't leach over winter, so what is tested in the winter you can assume to be 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 for now. Secondly, the soil testing labs are less busy than they are in the spring. Last, should the soil test indicate that your field has become too acidic, winter - being typically drier than spring - is a good time to apply limestone.