

Vancouver Island Forage Advisor TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

May 2011

Spend Less on Fertilizer

Save Money With Avail®

FACT: About 80% of the phosphate fertilizer you apply gets tied up by cations of aluminum, magnesium, iron and calcium.



AVAIL

FACT: When you use Avail®, more phosphate becomes available to plants. You could use 20% less P fertilizer. It is cheaper to use Avail® than to not use it.

How Does it Work?

Avail® improves phosphorous efficiency by creating a "shield" around phosphorous molecules to block chemical bonds occurring with the cations mentioned above.

Don't Believe It? See for Yourself!

The science behind Avail® is not based on wishful thinking. Although it has only recently been registered in Canada, Avail® has been used for several years in the USA. Many scientific independent university tests have been conducted world-wide on variety of crops in variety of conditions, and continue to be conducted. You can see these results by going to www.chooseavail.com, click on RESEARCH DATA, then click WEST to see research work done in climate and soil conditions like ours. Or, go back to the main page and click on SCIENCE BEHIND AVAIL and read more about how Avail® works.

Where do I get Avail®?

Top Shelf Feeds Inc in Duncan is our exclusive dealer on Vancouver Island for Avail®. Next winter, ask for Avail® when you order your fertilizer from them.

Take Our Word for it. Save Money!

Grass Health

Do Your Orchardgrass Fields Have a Virus?

There have been reported incidents of Cocksfoot Mottle Virus (CMV) in orchardgrass fields of coastal BC. Although not a new disease, there is increased awareness of the disease in recent years. CMV is considered the most serious disease affecting the persistence of orchardgrass.



CMV (Cocksfoot Mottle Virus) infected orchardgrass plant.

How can you tell if your fields are infected?

The best time to monitor for this disease is late March to early April. CMV is more likely to attack older plants than new stands. Diseased plants are scattered around the field, not found close together and have a yellow appearance through the entire plant or only through a portion of it (see photos). CMV does not affect forage quality, however, plants that become infected with CMV lose vigour and eventually die. As the stand ages, more and more plants become infected and die off. Orchardgrass plants become less abundant while weeds invade the open patches.

How does a field get infected?

The virus does not live in the soil, nor does it come in with the seed. Generally, CMV is spread from infected fields by harvesting equipment. Insects, such as some species of beetles, also transmit this disease.

What's the best way to deal with an infected field?

There are not any anti-viral agents available that can be used to treat infected fields. Because the disease is carried by equipment, avoid going from infected to uninfected fields without cleaning and sterilizing your equipment with bleach. In other words, harvest new fields before older ones and clean the equipment before returning to the new fields. Once a field is identified as being infected and is ready for renovation, the best preventative measure is to seed with certified CMV-resistant orchardgrass seed.



*Healthy orchardgrass leaves (left),
CMV-infected leaves (right).*

Agriculture Canada (in Agassiz), in conjunction with Richardson Seed, spent 10-15 years selecting forage varieties for coastal BC that exhibit outstanding CMV-resistance, in addition to other important traits such as yield. The selections are now being produced commercially. These two varieties are the only certified varieties and are the highest yielding selections of CMV-resistant varieties available in the marketplace. There is an earlier-maturing variety (AC Cheam Orchardgrass) and a medium-maturing variety (AC Chilliwack).

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

Orchardgrass), which are available mixed together, with or without tall fescue. They can also be added to a custom mix of your specifications. Please inquire with TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Weed Control

Reminder on Glyphosate-tolerant Procedure

In 2005 we featured a guest article in our Forage Agri Advisor by Bruce McKinnon from Monsanto. We felt it was a good idea to hear directly from a Monsanto representative about the correct procedure to use a "Roundup Ready" weed control system. Now called glyphosate-tolerant because of the wide variety of glyphosate brands in the marketplace, regardless of which brand you use, there is a right way and a wrong way proscribed by Monsanto.

From the very beginning, Monsanto intended two applications of glyphosate to be used in glyphosate-tolerant silage or grain corn. According to Mr. McKinnon, a first application of a registered glyphosate was to be applied early at the 1-4 leaf stage. A SECOND application is recommended to control the inevitable later flush of weeds prior to the 8th leaf stage of the corn. It was always the recommendation, directly from the label.

The two application plan was not meant to sell more herbicide to the producer. Mr. McKinnon pointed out that independent research has shown that low weed populations that germinate at or prior to the emergence of the corn can reduce yield as much as 13%. Higher weed populations can cost a grower up to 25% of his total yield. It is that light green flush of weeds that can harm you, even if it doesn't look like it.



Reminder:

TerraLink Fertilizer is Available at Top Shelf Feeds

TerraLink fertilizer is available on Vancouver Island from Top Shelf Feeds Inc in Duncan. In particular, Selcote Ultra and Avail® are exclusively available on the Island through this dealer. Place orders by calling Top Shelf at 250-746-5101. They are located at 1895 Roberts Road in Duncan.

Helpful Tools

Check Out Our Web Site

Take a moment to check out our website! Want to find a label or a Material Safety Data Sheet? Just use the search function and enter in the product name. Want to know about a specific product? Use the menu bar on the left side, or again, use the search function. Often we have links to supplier sites for more information on a product. We also have crop specific pages accessed by coloured bars on the right. We offer technical links such as a conversion tools, regional weather or try the PMRA's new buffer zone reduction calculator. To learn more about your industry or others, visit our library of Agri Advisors and Newsletters to access current or previous publications and articles. We are one click away!



Recycle your empty pesticide containers

IT'S FREE AND EASY!



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Triple or pressure RINSE



REMOVE

Caps and booklet, leave the label on



RETURN

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to find the collection site nearest you.

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Let us direct You to a dealer near You.

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