

# TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

# Hoof Print

Newsletter  
May 2009



## Turf Seed

### Grass Footing



When it comes to your grass footing you need something that will be safe to work on and will stand up to a lot of wear and tear. Our recommendation is for 60% Keystone 2 Perennial Ryegrass and 40% Bridgeport II Chewing's Fescue. This blend is quick to establish and is better able to withstand the constant pounding from horse's hooves. Both types of grasses are improved varieties and will not only perform well, but will look great too.

Keep in mind that this grass is strictly for riding on, and should not be grazed by animals, as the components contain enhanced levels of endophytes, which benefit the health and vigor of the turf but may be harmful if consumed.

During establishment, care must be taken to adequately fertilize and irrigate the area. It should be allowed to establish well before being ridden on.

For more information on our seed, give Richardson Seed a call at our Abbotsford office. 1-800-661-4559 or 604-864-9044.

## Fertilizer

### Pasture Fertilizer

Fertilizing your pastures is a necessary procedure for healthy pastures and extended grazing periods. Well-fertilized plants begin growth earlier and resist stresses such as drought and close grazing.

Nitrogen (N) is the most common limiting nutrient. Each growth cycle of a pasture generally takes up most, if not all, of the soil N available. This means that more than one application of granular fertilizer or manure is recommended throughout the grazing season. Typically, two or three applications of 40 - 60 pounds of N per acre are recommended.



Manure represents an excellent slow-release source of nutrients that favors pasture growth over time. It is better to allow your manure to compost first before spreading it on the fields, as this will allow quicker nutrient uptake by the grass.

Lime is also important because most horse manure that is spread is heavy in sawdust and urea which will lower the soils pH levels over time. Keeping the soil pH at a level of 6.0 - 6.5 is essential for healthy grass and a long grazing season.

**Our current general recommendations for pasture are as follows:**

#### Without Manure – Spring Application

28-10-10+3(s) @ 200-250lbs/acre  
18-18-18+3(s) @ 300lbs/acre

#### With Manure – Spring Application

28-10-10+3(s) @200-250lbs/acre  
40-0-0+5.5(s) @125-150lbs/acre

#### Additional Applications

40-0-0+5.5(s) @125-150lbs/acre  
46-0-0 @100lbs/acre

#### Lime – Spring or Fall Application

Dolo-Pril Lime @11 bags/acre

## Get Smart

### Soil Test, Anyone?

Soil tests provide the basis for your nutrient input for the following season. Normally, a basic test is sufficient, providing soil levels of the major and secondary nutrients. Every few years a detailed test should also be done to check micronutrient levels.



You now have the advantage of having your soil tested right at our location in Abbotsford. The Plant Science Lab provides lab services for soil, water and tissue testing for the agriculture, greenhouse and turf industries.

We also work with outside labs for manure, compost, fertilizer, disease and other more specific tests. Drinking Water (pass or fail) testing is also available.

For more information on our lab services please give our sales desk a call at our Abbotsford Office.

*Rooted in your community.*

# TerraLink

## Toxic Weeds

# Alsike Clover

Hay or pasture containing a large percentage of alsike clover is generally not recommended for horses. While the compound that causes the toxicity is not known for sure, susceptibility seems to depend on the area where the alsike is grown and the individual horse.

Plant material contains chlorophyll, which when ingested by a healthy horse will be converted into phylloerythrin and removed from the blood by the liver,



causing no harm to the horse. It is believed that alsike contains some compound, possibly an alkaloid, which causes liver dysfunction. A horse with a damaged liver cannot remove the phylloerythrin from its systems, and so it is deposited into the skin cells instead. When certain UV lights hit these skin cells, they react and can turn into a severe sun burn on areas that are not protected by hair or pigmentation, such as in black skin. Therefore, liver damage may be present with or without any signs of photosensitization.

Other possible symptoms include:

- Lining of eyelids, or conjunctiva, become red and swollen
- Inflammation and lesions of the muzzle, mouth, tongue, eyes, eyelids, and ears, with discharge from the lesions
- Jaundice
- Nervousness
- Digestive disorders; "off feed"
- Brownish urine
- Clay-colored feces

If you notice symptoms that you suspect indicate alsike clover toxicity, remove horses from the pasture and change their feed. Contact your veterinarian to obtain a correct diagnosis.

Lontrel 360 provides excellent control of clover when applied to actively growing plants either in the spring or fall. Use 420 ml/ha (170 ml/acre) applied in 100 to

200 L/ha of water. Forages treated with Lontrel may be grazed immediately following treatment.

For more information please visit the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands [www.gov.bc.ca/al/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/al/)

## Biologicals

# Fly Parasites

Keep Flies out of your barns and your house!

Our Fly Parasite program usually starts mid April to mid May, or when you start to notice flies showing up in your house, barn, or pestering your animals.

Fly parasites are very small, harmless wasps that nature has programmed to attack and kill flies in their immature pupal stage. The parasitic wasps attack most species of flies normally present in animal manure and garbage.

The parasitic wasp is very effective because it kills the fly before it reproduces. Because of the fly's natural advantage (produces more eggs, shorter life cycle and travel distance) it is best to release parasites throughout the fly season instead of just one large release.



Upon arrival, the parasitic wasps will be close to hatching from the fly pupae. Once hatched, they will immediately search for fresh fly pupae in which to lay eggs. The female wasp lays up to 50 eggs during her life that lasts, depending on climatic conditions, from 2-3 weeks. The parasite egg laid inside the fly pupae will hatch and the wasp larva will consume the developing fly, pupate and hatch out into an adult wasp and repeat the cycle.



The parasites are shipped still developing within the host, and usually start hatching 2-5 days after in temperatures around 20°C. It is better to cover the entire fly breeding area, rather than in one spot. All you need to do is open the bag and sprinkle them out (like throwing chicken feed). The fly parasites move around in a 100 yard radius in search of fly pupae. Do not put out in full sun or wet, soggy areas.

Recommended for horses, llamas, sheep, goats, poultry and kennels:

- 1-15 animals: 15K every 2 weeks
- 16-30 animals: 25K every 2 weeks
- 31-100 animals: 100-250K every 2 weeks.

Fly parasites are a long-term and environmentally friendly solution to fly problems in your barns and surrounding areas, not a quick chemical fix. They take time to establish, so don't wait until you're overrun with flies before you start!

Give us a call

## Contact Information

### TerraLink Horticulture Inc. TerraLink

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[www.tlhort.com](http://www.tlhort.com)

### South Valley Sales

34625 – 91st Street  
Oliver BC V0H 1T0  
Tel: 1-888-875-9970 or  
250-498-6406  
Fax: 250-498-4022  
or:  
1813-5th Street  
Keremeos BC V0X 1N0  
Tel: 250-499-2900  
Fax: 250-499-2960

### Roddick

#### Feed & Farm Supply

4119-40th Street  
Delta BC V4K 3N2  
Tel: 604-946-8338  
Fax: 604-946-0766  
Tack Store: 604-946-2771

