Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

April 2011

Don't Forget

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. It is 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 prescribed 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 is 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.

Spend Less on Fertilizer

Avail® Saves You Money

Here are two facts:

1. 80% of the phosphorous fertilizer you apply gets tied. Your crop doesn't have access to it and that money is gone.
2. When you use Avail® phosphorous treatment, you can use 20% less fertilizer. It is cheaper to use Avail® than to not use it.

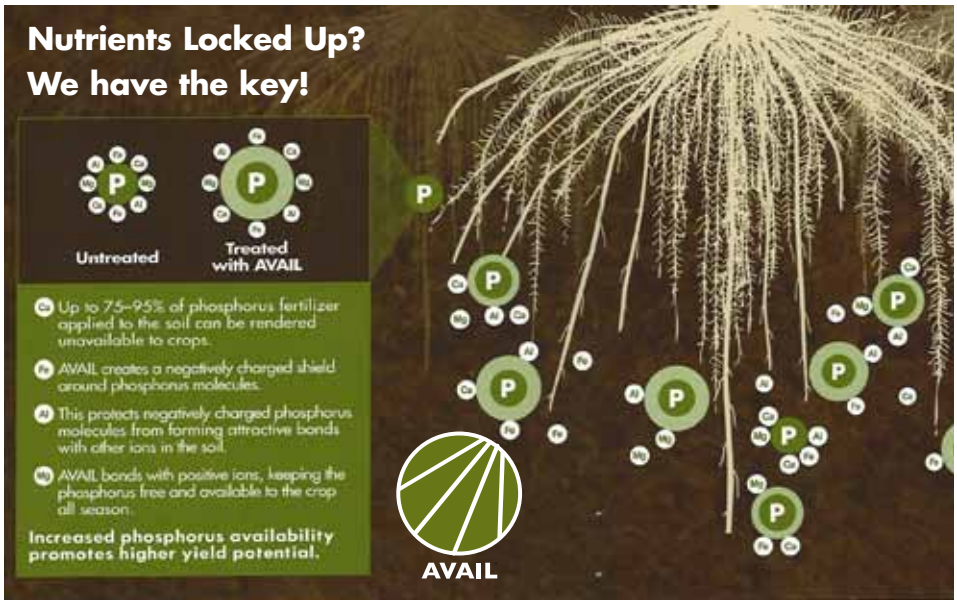
How Does it Work?

Avail® increases phosphorous fertilizer efficiency by creating a "shield" around phosphorous molecules to block chemical bonds being formed between the cations of aluminum, calcium, iron and magnesium. This keeps more phosphorous available to your crops. Which cations get shielded depends on the pH of the soil. In calcareous soil it is likely calcium, and in the Fraser Valley it is more likely the metals because conditions are more acidic.

Avail® is Not New

The science behind Avail® is not based on wishful thinking. Although it is fairly new in British Columbia as it was only recently registered in Canada, Avail® has been used for several years in the USA. Many scientific university tests have been conducted world-wide on a variety of crops in a variety of conditions. You can see these results for yourself by going to the manufacturer's web site (SFP) at www.chooseavail.com. Choose to listen to testimonials by farmers, or click on "RESEARCH DATA" at the top right, then click "WEST" to access research work done in climate and soil types like ours. Choose any of the research trials and look at them for yourself. Or, go back to the main page, click on "SCIENCE BEHIND AVAIL" and read more about how Avail® works.

Take Our Word for it. Save Money.



Forage Grass Varieties

How to Choose the Best Tall Fescue

Any dairyman will tell you over coffee, especially those that make hay, that the cattle sort the feed at the bunk and will not consume the less desirable feed. This is an issue of palatability. Orchardgrass is palatable but tall fescue is considered second rate. Dairymen in the Fraser Valley like the production tonnage, the fiber and durability of fescue but they realize they are giving up palatability in return. Obviously, the choice of fescue by both cattle and dairymen will depend on palatability as well as yield.

How do you choose which tall fescue is best for you? One way is to have coffee with sales reps while they promote their favorite varieties. Or, you can look at the results of scientific non-biased variety trials done by the BC Forage Council and other institutions to make your own decisions. These trials measure tonnes of dry matter yield per hectare. Go to their website at http://farmwest.com/. To see fescue trial data, click on Variety Testing in the menu bar at the top, then click on Forage Cultivar Trials in the vertical menu bar on the left side. Pick a year, then scroll down until you find trial results for Tall Fescue. Some years there aren't any trials. Often variety testing was accomplished in more than one area. Choose results from trials done in your area. Varieties are often tested over more than one year. This is important, as any one variety can do well, or poorly, by chance in any one year. If you see a variety near the top consistently over more than one year, it's probably a good one to try.

As an example, let's look at Barcel, a discontinued variety. In the farmwest website find the 2005 & 2006 Tall Fescue Harvest data from the Chilliwack trial site (Rutley Farm), and the 2004 & 2005 Tall Fescue Harvest data from Sumas Prairie (Louis Schurmann Farm). Those results are re-printed here for your consideration. we'll focus on Barcel as it has been considered the standard, or benchmark, for BC Forage Council trials, for several years. You can see how the other varieties are rated in terms of Barcel's average yield and how relative results between varieties change depending on the year and area.

The BC Forage Council trials measure only tonnes of dry matter yield per hectare. For palatability we can often find data from seed company and university studies. Scientists can determine palatability by measuring weight of forage consumed over time. For example, Barcel can be found on a seed company's website repeating data from a university trial (http://www.ampacseed.com/bronson1.htm). In the data collected at Penn State – Haller Farm, Barcel was the second most popular choice. This is a scientific representation of the observation of cattle sorting feed at the bunk.

For information about the varieties of Richardson Seed Tall Fescue carried by Terralink, call 604-864-9044, go to www.tlhort.com or call your sales representative.

2004 & 2005 Tall Fescue Harvest - Sumas (Louis Schurmann Farm)

	Dry Matter Yields (tonnes/ha)			
Cultivar	2004	2005	Average	% Barcel
CARMINE	12.22	11.08	11.65	112
BRONSON	11.47	10.52	10.99	106
STOCKMAN	11.68	10.22	10.95	106
BAROLEX	12.41	9.26	10.84	105
HYKOR	11.98	9.56	10.77	104
UMTF	11.28	10.22	10.75	104
KORA	11.588	9.358	10.47	101
TUSCANY	11.00	9.87	10.44	101
BARCEL	11.23	9.51	10.37	100
K5V66V	10.52	9.25	9.89	95
Mean	11.32	9.89	10.71	
CV	13.2	10.1	8.8	
LSD	NSD*	NSD*	0.71	

CV = Coefficient of variety
*NSD = F-tests indicate no significant differences between yields at alpha = 0.05

2005 & 2006 Tall Fescue Harvest - Chilliwack (Doug Rutley Farm)

		2006					
Cultivar	2005 Total	Cut 1 May 9	Cut 2 Jun 23	Cut 3 Nov 1	2006 Total	2005 & 2006 two-year avg.	% of Barcel
BRONSON	12.01	4.41	3.46	0.71	8.58	10.29	105
CARMINE	11.39	4.75	3.56	0.77	9.07	10.23	104
BARCEL	10.86	4.66	3.75	0.43	8.84	9.85	100
STOCKMAN	11.37	4.79	3.20	0.44	8.42	9.78	99
BAROLEX	10.43	4.48	3.78	1.49	8.75	9.59	97
KORA	11.03	4.48	3.02	0.39	7.89	9.46	96
HYKOR	10.73	3.95	3.27	0.50	7.71	9.22	94
UMTF	10.41	3.94	3.30	N/A	7.24	8.83	90
TUSCANY	10.10	3.98	3.11	0.44	7.54	8.82	90
K5V66V	9.16	4.70	3.11	0.37	8.18	8.67	88
Mean	10.75	4.41	3.36	.051	8.22	9.47	
CV	10.9	11.6	10.7	39.8	9.5	8.6	
LSD (P<0.05)	1.22	0.58	0.39	0.25	0.64	0.73	

LSD = Least significant difference
n/a = In November 2006 UMTF plots were over-run with volunteer grasses or weeds. BARCEL was used as the check cultivar.

Data from www.farmwest.com.

Seeding Timing

You're Not Too Late

It has long been thought that your grass seed must be in the ground by May 15th in order to secure a good enough crop for that season. That may have been the case once upon a time, but no longer. It might be due to the effects of global warming, (or it might not be – it's not our intention to have that debate in this article), but some years such as this one, "spring" comes later than other years. Often in those years, the autumn seems longer and essentially, the length of the growing season stays the same. You can plant later in the spring and are rewarded with a good crop later in the fall. Just because May 15th comes and goes, doesn't mean your seeding opportunity does too. Whatever date you plan to seed, be sure the soil temperatures are at least 8 degrees Celsius, and keep the seed moist during establishment. Choose from any one of our premium quality Richardson Seed brand forage mixes to get the most out of your growing season. Our seed varieties have been carefully chosen because of their high yield potential and disease resistance. Our mixes have been formulated to meet the nutritional demands of livestock and the differing growing conditions around BC.

Having a hard time deciding which mix is best for you? Give us a call at 1-800-661-4559 and we'll work to help meet your specific requirements.

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Let us direct You to a dealer near You.

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