

TerraLink

# Insider

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

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## Corn Gluten Technology

### Amaizeingly Green Products: A Success!

Introduced to the lawn and landscape markets a year ago, the Amaizeingly Green product line is a success. The products are all based on corn gluten, proven scientifically to have several benefits in a turf ecosystem. Weed seeds are affected by the release of organic dipeptides into the soil which inhibit root formation of germinating weeds. Amaizeingly Green products provide slow release nitrogen for thicker, greener lawns, improve soil chemistry, increase root growth and improve drought resistance.



A variety of products are available under the Amaizeingly Green brand:

- **8-1-3 with Potash**
- **9-1-1 with Kelp**
- **8-1-1 with Neem Cake**
- **Weed n' Feed 10-0-0**
- **Liquid Corn Gluten**

Amaizeingly Green products are all pet safe, won't burn your lawn and can be used in environmentally sensitive areas.



## Crop Protection

### Options for Slug Control



Traditionally, the only options for control of slugs involved using pesticides with metaldehyde. This toxic product, once distributed on the ground around crops and gardens, poses a danger to children and pets. Today, **Deadline M-Ps** is available in a 50 lb commercial formulation containing metaldehyde. It cannot be used in food crops near the edible parts, must be used only down the alleyways, and crops cannot be harvested within six days of application.

A better option for slug control is **Sluggo Slug and Snail Bait**. The active ingredient is iron phosphate, which has extremely low mammalian toxicity (oral LD50 is > 5000 mg/kg). Iron phosphate occurs naturally in small amounts. Sluggo pellets are very rain fast, and when they eventually break down, they leave iron and phosphorous as nutrients for plants. Available as a durable extruded pellet, Sluggo can even be mixed with fertilizer for top-dress applications. Slugs and snails stop feeding immediately after ingesting the bait then die within 3 to 6 days. Sluggo can be broadcast at 22 to 44 lbs per acre. Unlike metaldehyde slug products, Sluggo can be applied directly below and amongst the base of plants, right up to harvest and with no re-entry interval. Use the highest rate for severe infestations.

## A Softer Approach

### EarthLink – The Eco-Friendly Approach

Last year Terralink launched a new brand: Earthlink. It is a concept that features a high level of environmental accountability. This is not to say conventional crop inputs are wrong or environmentally unsuitable. Rather, it represents a choice to those producers who are seeking a more "earth-friendly" approach to farming.

EarthLink products are environmentally "softer" than conventional crop inputs. EarthLink products support sustainable agriculture, support stewardship of soil, aquifers, waterways, ecosystems and air quality. EarthLink products are manufactured making a conscious effort to include more natural and organic-based ingredients, including our specialized bona fide organic product lines that are available to certified organic producers.



# EarthLink

Grow Earth-Friendly with TerraLink

Rooted in your community.

# TerraLink

## Avoiding the Courtroom

# Negligence and Liability

Back in 2009, the Canadian Association of Agri Retailers (CAAR) held a forum in Brandon, Manitoba to coach agricultural dealers in the surrounding area in prevention of liability. It doesn't hurt to go over the information again.

In the forum, a lawyer advised the group that agricultural dealers should be concerned about more than breach of contract and Sale of Goods Act warranties, like a normal merchandiser. Ag dealers don't just sell products, they offer recommendations on the use of those products, and therefore must also be careful to avoid negligent mis-statements, defined as a situation where one party has access to a body of knowledge that the other doesn't.

The lawyer advised that dealers be aware of the language they use and claims they make about the performance of the products being sold to farmers. He said caution must be used when communicating characteristics of a product to a farmer, whether it is an insecticide, herbicide, fungicide etc. This can be difficult as conversations regarding the performance of a product are often made while trying to sell the product. To be safe, dealership staff should be well trained, prepared and as knowledgeable as possible about the products they are selling. If the answers to questions aren't known it is better to stop and refer to the manufacturer. Better safe than sorry, as they say.

### Reference

Chliboyko, J. *Liabilities and Accuracy*. The Communicator. Dec, 2009.

## Toxic Weeds

# Black Nightshade

Black Nightshade (*Solanum americanum*) is an annual/short lived perennial weed. It grows to a maximum height of 1.2 m and has white/pale blue flowers borne in bunches. Leaves alternate on the stem and have wavy edges. When the plant is mature the leaves look rather like tomato leaves. Black Nightshade produces round berries that are green when immature and black when mature. This plant has a taproot root system.

Black Nightshade can be found all throughout the province including Vancouver Island. It is commonly found on disturbed sites, such as roadsides, gardens and

cultivated fields. It can easily be found in commercial fields all over the Fraser Valley. This weed normally blooms in mid-June and the berries develop by mid-late July. Each plant is capable of producing thousands of seeds, which can last in the soil for a number of years. They are commonly dispersed by humans and wild animals such as birds and rodents.



*Black Nightshade with immature and mature berries.*

Most of the plant parts contain glycoalkaloids which are poisonous to humans and animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, chickens and pigs. It is generally accepted that the green berries are the most poisonous part of the plant. Control of Black Nightshade can be achieved mechanically through repeated mowing and cultivation or pulled by hand if there are only a few. Chemical control with glyphosate and dicamba has also been shown to be effective, depending on what crop the weed is in.

### References

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/weedsbc/pdf/black\\_nightshade.pdf](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/weedsbc/pdf/black_nightshade.pdf)

[http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/ppack.jump?p\\_psn=56&p\\_type=all](http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/ppack.jump?p_psn=56&p_type=all)

## Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

# Pesticide Container Collection Program

If your dealership sells pesticides and warehouses them, you obviously already possess a BC Ministry of Environment Vendor Certificate. You must also be certified by Crop Life Canada (CLC), the nation-wide industry association of pesticide manufacturers and distributors. Called the "Phase III Certification", this enables you to receive pesticides from suppliers who are also certified, and to sell those chemicals to other Phase III certified dealers, as well as your end-use customers. Any dealer of pesticides should consider becoming a return depot for empty pesticide containers. As in any

product stewardship recycling program, customers must have a place to which they can return empties, within certain limits. As the holder of a Phase III Certificate, you are within your rights to operate as a container return depot. Just ask one of your suppliers for the procedures and the materials.

CLC administers the returns process for millions of empty containers across Canada yearly. Nationally, on average over 60% of all outgoing containers are collected again. Empties are chipped and recycled into such things as plastic car parts. In BC, we are far below the national average, with under 5% of containers returned. You can help by informing your customers of the program and that your dealership is a participant. Your customers will welcome it!

All plastic containers up to 22.5 L size are returnable, as long as the container held a PCP registered commercial or agricultural product. Containers should be triple rinsed and drained dry, with lids and booklets removed. This means your staff should inspect incoming containers to ensure they are completely empty of chemicals.

For more information call us at 1-800-661-4559.

## Helpful Tools

# Check Out Our Web Site!



If you haven't been to [www.thort.com](http://www.thort.com) for a while, take a moment and check it out! Want to find a label or a Material Safety Data Sheet? Just 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.