



# Hoof Print

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Newsletter  
Spring 2012

## Pasture Nutrition

### Fertilizer Options for Pasture & Hay

If you don't have a recent one, a soil test is always a good investment, because it can save you from wasting money and give you a healthy, productive field that can stand up to heavy usage. March and April are the best time to fertilize so any spring precipitation can help to wash the fertilizer into the root zone. Of course use any manure you have stored, but do yourself a favor and send a sample to TerraLink for testing in our Plant Science Lab. You may not need any further fertilizer, or you might. TerraLink has a variety of inexpensive fertilizer blends available at both the Abbotsford and Delta locations. Visit <http://goo.gl/d2mvf> for a link to our brochure "How to Improve Your Pasture" for more information. If your interest is in organic products, we also have a wide range of organic fertilizers as well.

## Pasture & Hay

### Richardson Seed Grass Seed Blends

TerraLink offers a full line of Richardson Seed forage mixes that can be used for seeding a new field or overseeding an existing one.



#### Horse and Sheep Pasture Mix

This is our most popular choice for horse owners. Formulated to meet the nutritional needs of horses, this mix tolerates close grazing and it can be cut for hay. It does really well throughout the province, from the coastal areas to the interior.



#### General Pasture Mix

Suited to a hobby farm that has a bit of everything, this blend is meant for mixed grazing. Quick regrowth and a good mix of species to keep all the animals well fed, this mix is adaptable throughout BC climates.



#### Hay Baler Mix

This mix is a high performance blend for high quality hay production. Containing a large portion of orchardgrass, plus timothy and tall fescue, this mix provides excellent feed value. A small percentage of annual ryegrass has also been added to act as a nurse crop until the stand gets established. The components of this mix have been selected with productivity and palatability in mind to produce top-quality haylage.

Please contact us for more detailed information about these mixes or to enquire about custom blends.

*\*Richardson Seed forage mixtures do not contain endophyte-enhanced grasses.*

## Pest Control

### Controlling Rodents in Farm Buildings

The three rodents of concern in and around barns are the House mouse (*Mus musculus*), the Black or Roof rat (*Rattus rattus*) and the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). All three can ruin feed, spread disease, transport parasites and start electrical fires by chewing wires.

Signs of a rodent problem may include droppings, gnawed or chewed areas where the floors and walls meet, chewed holes in feed bags or visual sightings. These rodents are most active at night and will nest

close to a food source such as grain storage areas. In a hay loft, you will often find black rats nesting towards the back of the loft, in between bales of hay or in the wall.

Control of these rodents is important year-round. Keep feed storage areas clean, fix leaking taps, eliminate standing water, wet areas and possible hiding/nesting areas. Clear around buildings of brush, trees and shrubs to eliminate hiding areas.

TerraLink carries only single-feed rodenticides. Research and anecdotal evidence suggests that populations of warfarin-resistant (multi-feed anticoagulant) rats are increasing, due to rats having to continually come back to feed. When rodents feeding on multi-feed rodenticides are forced to leave the area before ingesting enough active ingredient (ai), they can become resistant. As well, the build-up of ai in the rat is passed on to predator species that feed on them, with often lethal consequences. Single-feed rodenticides, on the other hand, are much more effective in that it only takes one feeding for a mouse or rat to ingest a lethal dose. As well, there is no build-up of ai that can be passed on to predators.

The majority of rodenticides are now labeled for use in or around buildings. This is simply because these three types of rodents stay close to cover. All rodenticides must be placed out of reach of children, pets and livestock and must be placed in secure, tamper-proof bait stations and secured so they cannot be carried off or moved around. The "T" bait station is no longer allowed because the bait is exposed to children and pets. All weather blocks (AWB) are best used outside around buildings; place packs and pellets are better suited to indoor use.

You can download a list of rodenticides offered by TerraLink through the following link: <http://goo.gl/T1yqd>.

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

### Convenient Location

## Products Available at Two Locations!

Don't forget, you can buy products for your pasture and barns from TerraLink at two locations: at the Abbotsford head office at 464 Riverside Road, or at Roddick Fertilizers at 4119–40th Street in Delta. All major products are stocked in Delta in-season, and the friendly staff there can help you just like in Abbotsford. Please note that blankets and tack are only available in Delta. Come in any time, or call ahead: 1-800-661-4559 at Abbotsford and 604-946-8338 at Delta.

### Reducing the Carbon Footprint

## Help us Go Green!

One way we can reduce our carbon foot-print is to eliminate hard copy technical bulletins and newsletters. You can help and at the same time win a prize! All you have to do is give us your e-mail address



and updated information on the acres of your farm. We will enter your name in a draw for a TerraLink jacket! When we have collected enough e-mail addresses from enough customers we will send you technical advisors electronically, stop sending you paper copies and help the environment.

Vist the TerraLink website and use the new and improved search tool to look for helpful articles, data sheets and other useful information.  
www.tlhort.com is available 24/7!

### Toxic Weeds

## Giant Hogweed – Don't Touch!

This toxic weed is hard to miss. Originally introduced from Asia, Giant Hogweed is now on the Invasive Plant Council of BC's "most unwanted" list<sup>1</sup>. The plant is significant, bold, striking, enormous – and dangerous. It is likely to be found in uncultivated areas, disturbed ground, ditches, riparian areas and moist pastures. The danger exists because the sap of the plant contains phytotoxins that cause severe and painful burns upon contact with skin in the presence of sunlight. The scars from resulting welts, rashes and blisters can be so bad that they may persist for several years. If sap gets into contact with eyes it could cause blindness. Handling of the plant or its parts is therefore extremely hazardous. It can be found in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Gulf Islands and lower Vancouver Island<sup>2</sup>.



A member of the parsley or carrot family, Giant Hogweed, or *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is primarily known for its distinct size, growing up to 5 metres in height. White flowers are in dome or umbrella-shaped clusters (this formation of flowers is called an 'umbel') that may be over a metre in diameter. Plants may not flower for a few years, then bloom in summer after which the plant dies off. Leaves may grow to over a metre across, are shiny, deeply divided like a maple leaf with very saw-toothed edges. The stems are hollow with dark red or purple blotches, and contain bristly hairs<sup>3,4</sup>. Giant Hogweed is similar in some ways to a related plant; Cow Parsnip. A comparison chart can be found below.

### Comparison: Giant Hogweed vs Cow Parsnip

	Plant Height	Leaves	Surface Hairs	Flower Heads
<b>Giant Hogweed</b>	Up to 5 metres	Shiny, over a metre across, deeply divided	Stiff, bristly hairs	Over a metre across
<b>Cow Parsnip</b>	Up to 2 metres	Not shiny, smaller, in 3 lobes	Soft hairs	No more than 20 cm across

If you believe you have Giant Hogweed on your property please contact the Invasive Plant Council of BC at 1-888-WEEDSBC or [www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca).

This is just one of our series of toxic weeds. For the others, enter "toxic weeds" in the search bar on our website at [www.tlhort.com](http://www.tlhort.com), or call our sales desk at 1-800-661-4559.

#### References:

- 1 <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/invasive-plants/invasive-plant-watch>
- 2 Giant Hogweed: National Fact Sheet. Compiled by the National Invasive Species Working Group.
- 3 [http://www.anpc.ab.ca/wiki/index.php/Heracleum\\_mantegazzianum](http://www.anpc.ab.ca/wiki/index.php/Heracleum_mantegazzianum)
- 4 Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) Fraser Valley Regional District.

## Huge Blanket Sale at Roddick' Farm, Feed & Garden



Stop by Roddick's and browse through our wide variety of horse blankets, **ALL ON SALE!**

**Have all the blankets you need?**  
Bring them in for washing and repairs. Washing is done on site and all blankets are hung to dry.

**Beginning to think of Spring?**  
We now carry a range Home and Garden products including fertilizer for plants and veggies, top soil, mushroom manure and more.

Visit our website at [www.roddickfeed.com](http://www.roddickfeed.com) for more details.

TerraLink Horticulture Inc., 464 Riverside Road, Abbotsford, BC, V2S 7M1  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-4559 Tel: 604-864-9044 Fax: 604-864-8418 [www.tlhort.com](http://www.tlhort.com)  
Roddick Feed, Farm & Garden: 4119-40th Street, Delta BC V4K 3N2  
Tel: 604-946-8338, Fax: 604-946-0766, Tack Store: 604-946-2771

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