

Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

BC Holstein
News

March 2012

Nutrient Efficiency

Avail® Saves You Money!

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



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 Avail® Work?

Applied to granular phosphate fertilizers such as mono ammonium phosphate (MAP) and Triple Superphosphate (TSP), Avail® increases phosphate fertilizer efficiency by sequestering antagonistic cations such as iron, aluminum, calcium and magnesium. This means in effect phosphorus molecules become shielded from bonding with these cations. Less phosphate tied up means more available to plant roots. Undisturbed, Avail® continues to inhibit phosphate fixation throughout the growing season.

Another FACT: every comparison trial done over the past couple of years has demonstrated visible and measurable improvements in the plot treated with Avail®. This stuff works!

All you have to do is say, "I want Avail® on my phosphorus fertilizer" when you place your order. Leave the rest up to us.

To learn more about Avail® Phosphate Enhancer see

www.chooseavail.com, or download from the TerraLink website (www.tlhort.com) the information sheets "Avail® Phosphorous Enhancer" and "Avail® Phosphorous Enhancer - Questions".

Improving Milk Production

BMR Silage Corn: More Milk, More Profit

Now going into the third year of Fraser Valley, Brown Mid Rib (BMR) corn is being grown has proven itself in other dairy markets, increasing milk production, cutting feed costs, and improving herd health. These are only some of the benefits of this corn.

Mycogen Seeds is the premier supplier of industry-leading Silage-Specific™ BMR corn hybrids that maximize your milk production like nothing else. These award-winning hybrids offer the latest advancements in agronomics and are bred specifically to deliver both high digestibility and more tonnage — leading to maximum milk production and a higher return on your investment. And with lower lignin content, these hybrids give you the highest fiber digestibility and higher dry matter intake. The result is more milk, and ultimately, more profit for your dairy.

Sixteen university and independent scientific reports published since 1999 show cows fed BMR hybrids produced an average of 4.8 pounds more milk per cow per day than cows fed non-BMR hybrids. Silage-Specific BMR hybrids have up to 40 percent less lignin than conventional hybrids. With a 10 to 14 percent increase of digestible fiber, BMR hybrids allow for increased dry

matter intake and higher-forage diets, which make more nutrients available to the cow for milk production. They also allow for lower grain feeding which improves rumen health, lowering the risk of acidosis.

Please note: TerraLink distributes Mycogen BMR corn seed only in the Fraser Valley.

Follow this link to find more on BMR and improved milk production: <http://goo.gl/jVQyH>

Plant Science Lab

New Soil Tests



TerraLink is adding to our extensive list of lab analyses. These new test packages will help to more precisely determine crop requirements for phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as more accurately predict the potential loss of phosphorus into waterways.

Phosphorus Saturation Index (PSI):

This test gives you a measure of your soil P accumulation and the potential for P loss by leaching and erosion. PSI is determined in a calculation that requires Aluminum, which has been added to the list of test packages offered at TerraLink's Plant Science Lab. When the calculation result exceeds 25%, this indicates high soil P solubility and therefore high risk of leaching loss of phosphorus.

Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio (C:N):

Availability of nitrogen depends to some degree on the ratio of carbon to nitrogen in your soil. Microbes whose business it is to decompose organic material use much nitrogen in that process. As a result, more nitrogen must be applied to feed the plants so they don't become

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

nitrogen-starved. When the C:N ratio is 15:1 or less, the soil will typically be in balance, and about 10 – 25 lbs N/acre will typically be released for every 1% OM. When the C:N ratio is between 15:1 and 30:1, no excess N is released. When the C:N ratio is greater than 30:1, microbes will be consuming a lot of N, and more N will be necessary to feed the crop.

What's New in Weed Control

Impact Herbicide for Corn

This new post emergence Group 27 herbicide has been registered for control of broadleaf and grassy weeds in corn. The active ingredient, topramezone, affects a plant enzyme known as HPPD, which interferes with photosynthesis and other plant functions. It will control or suppress all major weeds, including barnyard grass, pigweed, lambsquarters, shepherd's purse and mustard family. It is meant to be tank-mixed with atrazine and can also be mixed with glyphosate in Roundup Ready production systems.

Weed Control

Controlling Volunteer Canola in Corn

It is becoming more common to find volunteer canola as a weed in fields of silage corn. Of course, this is glyphosate-tolerant ("Roundup Ready") canola that has found its way in feed, through the otherwise tough ruminant digestive system, in the manure, and out onto the field. It is not easy to kill and there are not many options. So far, here are three choices.

Basagran:

A selective post emergence herbicide for broadleaf weeds, Basagran can be used on both silage and sweet corn. It must be applied at 0.9 L/acre with Assist Oil at 0.4 to 0.8 L/acre and works best in warmer weather. Basagran can be applied to corn at any stage, but best control is attained if the canola are in the 1 to 5 leaf stage. After 8 leaves or 15 cm height you can expect control to be poor.

DyVel DSP:

Not commonly used or known, nevertheless DyVel DSP is an effective post emergence herbicide on broadleaf

weeds. This systemic product should be used in the 2 to 4 leaf stage of canola at 0.34 to 0.45 L/acre on silage corn fields.

2,4-D amine 600

This old herbicide is not commonly used on corn because of the temporary twisting in the foliage that occurs. However, if necessary, 2,4-D can be used for volunteer canola safely. The silage corn plants should be less than 15 cm tall. Use 0.24 to 0.38 L/acre at the 2 to 4 leaf stage of the canola.

Plant Nutrition

Tissue Testing in Corn

Why tissue test your corn? What does it add to your ability to produce high quality, high yielding silage? In fact, tissue testing in corn is already done elsewhere and is successful and useful¹.

From tissue sampling results at an early stage, foliar application of micronutrients may be able to correct some nutrient deficiency issues. This is not only possible but realistic. Real gains in quality and yield can be achieved this way. For correction of macronutrients, foliar application is possible, but leaf absorption of the volumes necessary for N, P or K is difficult due to the amount that needs to be absorbed. For this reason, tissue test results showing deficiencies in macronutrients can be used as a starting point for the following crop. This process is routinely done in most blueberry production in the Fraser Valley, where tissue testing is the norm, and the recommendations are applied to the next year.

When to Sample:

1. For plants less than 12 inches tall, submit all the portion cut 1 inch above the ground.
2. For plants taller than 12 inches but prior to tasseling, submit the entire first mature leaf below the whorl. A mature leaf is completely unrolled from the stalk and has a formed sheath, (collar).
3. For plants with 50% of the ear leaf showing. Break off at the base of the leaf, but do not include portions of the leaf sheath (collar), Sample before the silks turn brown.

Reference: ¹ <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/Management/pdfs/NCH15.pdf>

Social Media

Follow Us on Twitter!



Now you can follow TerraLink on Twitter. You will see tweets regarding new pest control registrations, company or industry news, or just reminders. Follow the link on our web site or find us on your smart phone.

Helpful Hints

Reminders!

Don't forget these useful suggestions. They might prove helpful to you.

TerraLink Web Site:

Visit the TerraLink website at <http://www.tlhort.com>. You can look up products, Material Safety Data Sheets or labels for anything. Review past publications and technical articles on a wide range of subjects. Under "Industries" on the right side, click on "Forage" for the focus page for dairy and range. Save this as your landing page if you like. Here you can find technical information, publications, news items and featured products only about forage production.

Roddick Fertilizer

Crop supplies are available in Delta. If you farm in the western Fraser Valley, don't forget you can pick up supplies from the Roddick Fertilizer location at 4119 – 40th Avenue. From Cloverdale and west, this might be faster for you than working with the Abbotsford location. Their number is 604-946-8338.

Jacket Draw

Help us reduce our use of paper. Give us your e-mail address and updated information on acres of each crop you farm and we will enter your name in a draw for a jacket! This is one way we can reduce our carbon footprint, too.

Recycle Chemical Containers

Empty your pesticide containers, triple rinse them and remove the caps and any loose label or plastic wrap material. Then they can be returned to our Abbotsford location. We are participating in the CleanFARMS container collection program. This is part of the national industry association Crop Life Canada, which operates this program yearly to help reduce the amount of contaminated plastic that gets buried or burned.