Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Progressive Dairyman

Winter 2012/2013

Fertilizer Additives:

Enhancing Your Nutrients

Nutrients are expensive. Give them every chance to perform for you.
Here are some additives that help you get the job done with less worry.

Avail® Phosphorus Enhancer

A water-soluble additive for fertilizer that enables phosphate to remain free in the soil, Avail® provides the opportunity for greater plant uptake with minimal costs. It is cheaper to use Avail® than not to use it. Ask for it when you place your fertilizer order.

Selcote Ultra®

As we know, selenium combats health issues in stock animals. Selcote Ultra® granules are engineered in a combination of both slow release and fast release selenium. It is meant to be mixed with granular fertilizer and thereby spread onto forage and pasturelands. It is taken up by the crop, and ingested naturally by stock in their feed. This is the best natural method to increase blood selenium levels in dairy cattle and sheep. Test your soil and stock blood levels of Se prior to application. Ask for Selcote Ultra® treated granular fertilizer when you place your order.

Agrotain Urease Inhibitor

Agrotain works by inhibiting the action of urease, an enzyme that facilitates the breakdown of urea in soil to ammonium. If ammonium nitrogen is not taken up by plants it can be lost to the atmosphere as ammonia. Agrotain slows this process, resulting in less being volatilized and more going to your crop. Ask for Agrotain treatment when you order your spring and summer fertilizer.

ESN Slow Release Nitrogen

ESN is a urea granule coated with polyurethane. It is engineered to allow water to diffuse into the granule, dissolving the N within. The benefit of ESN is because of the longer release, nitrogen becomes available more suited to when your crop needs it. The result is less loss of nitrogen by leaching and volatilization. Also, fewer applications are required, which means savings on fuel and less soil compaction.

Richardson Seed

Forage Seed Mixtures

Richardson Seed has a complete line of seed mixtures for the forage industry. Below are the mixes most commonly grown by producers. See our website (www.tlhort.com) for more choices and more information, or contact us to inquire about custom mixes.

General Pasture

For well-drained soils where high quality seed is required but improved varieties are not essential. *Seeding Rate:* 35 lbs/acre. Mix contains Orchardgrass, Norlea Perennial Ryegrass, Annual Ryegrass, Tall Fescue, Timothy, Creeping Red Fescue.

Premium Orchardgrass CMV-R

A premium orchardgrass blend for applications requiring CMV-resistant, high-yielding, top quality forage production. *Seeding Rate:* 35 lbs/acre. Mix contains AC Cheam Orchardgrass and AC Chilliwack Orchardgrass.

Premium Orchardgrass CMV-R/ Tall Fescue

A superior forage seed mixture for applications requiring CMV resistance, high yields, and top-quality forage. *Seeding Rate:* 35 lbs/acre. Mix contains AC Cheam Orchardgrass, AC Chilliwack Orchardgrass, Barolex Tall Fescue and Bronson* Tall Fescue.

Premium Tall Fescue

A blend of improved varieties well suited to the Coastal area. It is best seeded on fields with good weed control as tall fescue does not compete well during establishment. Provides excellent yields for silage and hay production in a wide range of soil conditions. *Seeding Rate:* 35 lbs/acre. Mix contains Barolex Tall Fescue, Bronson* Tall Fescue and Seine Tall Fescue.

Premium Ryegrass

A complex ryegrass mixture that can give high feed quality and productivity. It is suited for moist lowland conditions and intensive grazing. *Seeding Rate*: 35 lbs/acre. Mix contains Aubisque Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass, Norlea Diploid Perennial Ryegrass, Tetraploid Annual Ryegrass and Tuukka Timothy.

Hay Baler

Hay Baler Forage Seed Mixture is a high-performance forage blend designed for high-quality hay production. Included in this mixture is a small percentage of annual ryegrass to act as a nurse crop for initial weed control purposes. *Seeding Rate:* 35 lbs/acre. Mix contains

Orchardgrass, Barolex Tall Fescue, Tuukka Timothy and Annual Ryegrass.

Southern Interior Dryland
Designed for non-irrigated pasture or hay field applications in the southern regions of the BC Interior. *Seeding Rate:* 25 lbs/acre. Mix contains Baridana Orchardgrass, Orchardgrass (Dryland), Creeping Red Fescue, Kirk Crested Wheatgrass, Slender Wheatgrass, Annual Ryegrass and Creeping Rooted Alfalfa.

Premium Alfalfa
This mixture is comprised of three WL Alfalfa varieties. WL Alfalfas are some of the highest quality, highest yielding alfalfas in the marketplace. *Seeding Rate:* 20 lbs/acre. Mix contains WL 319 HQ Alfalfa, WL 348 AP Alfalfa and WL 343 HQ Alfalfa.

*Registration Pending.

Crop Protection

Weed Control in Field Corn: Review for 2013

The first step in planning your weed control strategy in silage corn is to know the six major weeds that like to live in your field. If your local sales rep can't help you, bring in examples of the most common weeds, roots and all, and we will do our best to identify them at our Abbotsford office.

Glyphosate-Tolerant Corn
Apply Touchdown Total at the 1-4 leaf stage of the corn to prevent yield-robbing competition from early weeds, and then apply a second application of Touchdown Total before the 8 leaf stage.

Tank Mixes:
- AATREX Liquid 480 Herbicide
- Primextra II Magnum
- Impact
- Dual II Magnum

Conventional Corn
Pre-Plant Incorporated
AATREX Liquid 480 Herbicide, with or without Dual II Magnum

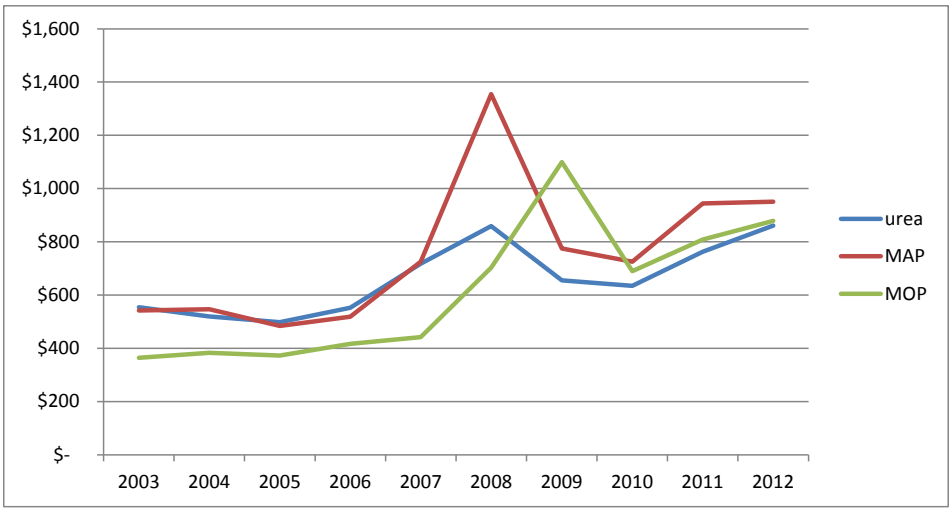
Market

Fertilizer Prices in 2013 and Beyond

The past few years have been witness to rising fertilizer prices with some wild fluctuations. The cost of nutrients constitutes a significant portion of your variable costs, so it may be a good idea to think about the global issues that affect this part of your farming business. Here are some of those factors:

- In the long run, the cost of major ingredients will probably increase. See Chart #1 which shows some historical values of the retail prices of urea (nitrogen), MAP (phosphorus) and Muriate of Potash, or MOP (potash). Except for some big bounces in 2008 and 2009, NPK has been steadily increasing and will likely continue to do so.
- Some crops in the world are now grown to produce fuel. Farmland and its resources are no longer dedicated to just food production.
- The world population is growing. The United Nations predicts it will grow from the current number of just under 7 billion people to at least 9 billion by the year 2050, an increase of about 30%. During this growth, developing areas in China and India will seek a change in diet that includes more protein. Scientists think this means global agricultural input must double to meet those numbers *(Germination, Sept 2011 issue)*.
- As easily produced and mined nutrients dwindle, nutrient costs may increase as we develop new technology. Given current reserves, if nothing were to change from this point onwards, the major nutrients would be gone in a few hundred years. Mining deeper and finding sources of less easily extractable nutrients will mean technology changes and higher costs *(Better Crops, Vol. 93, 2009, NO. 3)*.

CHART #1



Pre-Emergence Application
Several products are registered for pre-emergence use and available to be tank-mixed, depending on which weeds are present. These include AATREX, Primextra II Magnum, Dual II Magnum and Integrity.

Post-Emergence
Several products are registered for post-emergence use and available to be tank-mixed, depending on the weeds that are present. These include AATREX, Accent, Pardner, Dual II Magnum, Banvel and Oracle.

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