Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Progressive Dairy Insert

January 2015

Silage Corn Seed

Last Chance to Order Silage Corn Seed!

Unless there were seed crop failures, there is almost always some amount of corn seed still available at this time of year, in case you haven't got your order in yet. Ask your TerraLink Sales Rep or put a call into our Sales Desk (1-800-661-4559). They will help match your heat unit requirements in your growing area with the remaining inventory of seed.

For 2015, here are the varieties of glyphosate-tolerant silage corn seed offered by TerraLink:

Hyland Corn Hybrids:

- HL 3085 (CHU 2275)
- HL 3093 (CHU 2300)
- HL R219 (CHU 2350)
- HL SR22 (CHU 2400-2650)
- HL SR35 (CHU 2650-2850)

Mycogen Corn Hybrids:

- F2F 298 (CHU 2500)
- F2F 343 (CHU 2575)

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® then 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.

Fertilizer Technology

Wolf Trax®: Efficient Micronutrients

TerraLink now has the ability to supply fertilizer that contains homogenous micronutrients. We can apply B, Zn, Mn, Cu and Fe directly onto the granules of N, P and K in the fertilizer blend, using Wolf Trax® innovative micronutrient technology. This means several things:

- First, micronutrients can now be distributed everywhere a particle of N, P or K falls, because there are micronutrients attached consistently to every granule.
- Micronutrients are much more available to the roots of the plants, leading to the opportunity for better, more uniform uptake, yield and quality. This process provides up to 50 times the interception points for root to access micronutrients, compared to the previous method with granular micronutrients.
- Because of the above two points, less micronutrients are now necessary to add to your blend, due to the increased availability of micronutrients to the crop from more efficient distribution in the root zone. (See Fig. 1)

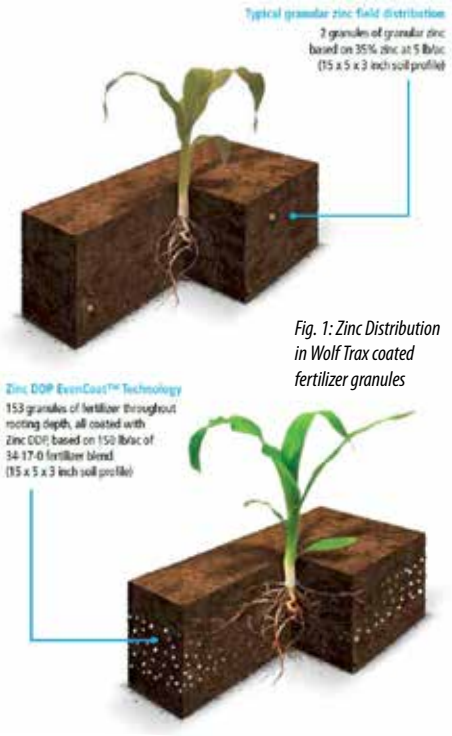

Fig. 1: Zinc Distribution in Wolf Trax coated fertilizer granules

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

Although new to BC through TerraLink Horticulture, this is an established process and product line elsewhere in North America and worldwide. It is not new, and it works. Also, this product has been approved by, and therefore endorsed by the CFIA. When you place your order with TerraLink, make sure to ask for Wolf Trax® homogenous micronutrients and take advantage of this new technology in your grass and corn stands.

Agri-Plastics

We've Got You Covered

New for 2015, TerraLink now has an expanded and diverse range of new Agri-Plastics. Let us help you to protect your bunker silage so that you retain the maximum amount of valuable feed available for feeding your animals when the time comes. Ask our Sales Desk (1-800-661-4559) or your Sales Representative for more information on these products:

a) Three sizes of 5 mil bunker plastic, 100 foot-long rolls in widths of 40, 33 and 25 feet.

b) Bunker Tarp Covers. A new heavy-duty thick woven poly, providing an extra protective layer over your plastic or oxygen barrier to help prevent bird damage. Available in two sizes, 12 by 300 feet and 15 by 300 feet.

c) To hold down your bunker plastic layers and help prevent feed spoilage due to oxygen incursion, we have new **Bunker Bags**. Sausage-shaped, our Bunker Bags are available either empty, or pre-filled, sold by each or by the skid-lot. Our pre-filled Bunker Bags contain limestone instead of gravel, so that any bags that break and mix with your silage, although annoying, won't be harmful to your cows. Unlike gravel, limestone (or calcium carbonate) is not harmful when ingested. Also, the contents of broken bags may be tossed into the manure pit or directly onto the fields, where limestone will benefit the soil.

d) Silage Bale Wrap is once again offered by TerraLink. Benepak® wrap is a multi-layered, co-extruded quality film. It has high tear and puncture resistance, plus high adhesive strength and superior stretch characteristics. Available in either white or green.

New Product!

Freshstall$^{G/K}$ Bedding Conditioner

In Stalls:
Our original Freshstall^{K} has been improved! Re-named Freshstall$^{G/K}$, it is a unique blend of ingredients that are designed to reduce ammonia emissions and help aerobically break down the litter. It can replace hydrated lime, which some think is more harmful than beneficial, in calf pens, comfort stalls and maternity pens. The non-caustic chemical nature of Freshstall$^{G/K}$ helps to absorb moisture and urine in the bedding, thereby improving the barn environment.

In Manure Pits:
Freshstall$^{G/K}$ can be re-used after it's used in stalls. The waste material from stalls that contains Freshstall$^{G/K}$ should be added directly into your manure pit. The same ingredients that enable it to condition the stall bedding are also beneficial when added into the manure pit. Freshstall$^{G/K}$ breaks up fibre, reduces crusting and assists in homogenizing the manure in the pit. It also reduces strong aromas emanating from the pit, and helps to reduce flies.
For more information on Freshstall$^{G/K}$ ask the Sales Desk or call your TerraLink Sales Representative.

Plant Science Lab

Still Time for Soil Testing

Although we always recommend you test your soil in the fall, there is still time to get it done now. Why? Several reasons: except for nitrogen and sulphur, the other nutrients don't leach or move in the soil to any great extent, and what is measured now is more or less what will be present in the spring. Your recommended rates for nitrogen and sulphur are based more on crop removal than soil test levels, so unless you are engaging in a Nutrient Management Plan (part of an Environmental Farm Plan), don't worry about them. Should the soil test indicate your field has become too acidic, there is still time to have limestone applied pre-fertilization and planting.

A Standard test package at Terralink's Plant Science Lab includes pH, organic matter, salts, nitrate-N, phosphate, potash, sulphur, magnesium, calcium and base saturation. Although this is sufficient, it doesn't hurt to check micronutrients every 5-6 years too. Even though grass and corn typically don't respond to applications of micronutrients in the Fraser Valley, you wouldn't want your crop to suffer in yield or quality because of some minor nutrient that has strayed a little low. The Detailed test package is more expensive but also includes sodium, zinc, boron, copper, manganese and iron.

In both forage grass and silage corn, a soil test is not necessary more than once every couple of years. Given the low cost per acre, it just doesn't make sense to stretch it longer than that, based on the value of the information gained by testing. For example, a Standard test package costs $50.00, which spread over a 10 acre field is $5.00 per acre. Over a 30 acre field the cost is only $1.67 per acre.

Industry Lingo

Today's Definition: *"Homogeneous Micronutrients"*

OK, this is two words, not one. "Homogeneous" means something like "parts all of the same kind". When micronutrients are not homogeneous in a fertilizer blend, it means some of the fertilizer particles are micronutrients, and others are not. Because micronutrients are required by plants in tiny amounts, there would typically be very few particles in that fertilizer blend that are micronutrients. All the other particles are of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, magnesium, etc. In a blend with homogeneous micronutrients, it means that every single particle has micronutrients on or in it – in very small amounts. Obviously, plants are much more likely to take up micronutrients when the micronutrients are homogeneous, simply because the micronutrients are distributed widely, on every fertilizer particle.