

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

Hoof Print

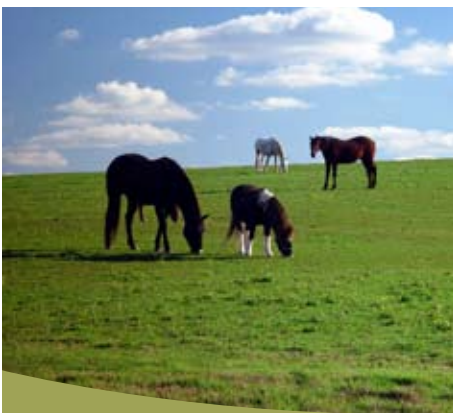


Newsletter
January 2009

About Us

TerraLink Horticulture

Based in Abbotsford, TerraLink Horticulture is a crop input dealer supplying producers across western Canada. TerraLink provides products, services, and support to primary agricultural producers and non food crop producers alike. Our product range starts with seed and includes any and all crop inputs or equipment required for you to harvest the best crop possible. TerraLink products and services reach customers directly or via a dealer network across western Canada. Owners of farms, ranches and stables may be most familiar with our widely-used Richardson Seed brand Horse Pasture Grass Mix, but TerraLink offers so much more – feed, seed for high-producing hay, fertilizer, herbicides, organic products, rodent controls, disinfectants, tack, fencing supplies, worming medications and more. This is the premier edition of the “Hoof Print” newsletter, which will be published seasonally. You will find in it a selection of interesting and useful articles. For more information on our products and services, visit www.tlhort.com or www.rodickfeedandfarm.com.



Pasture Seed

Horse Pasture Patch



Horse Pasture Patch forage seed mixture is specially formulated for Coastal and Interior areas to patch bare areas in horse pastures. It greens up quickly, providing high feed value and tolerating close grazing.

This mix has a mid to high content of ryegrass, which grows quickly to fill-in patches in the field. The richness of the ryegrass has been counter-balanced with fibre supplied by fescues. The mix is well-rounded and also contains timothy, orchard grass and bluegrass for balanced nutrition.

Currently we have both 4kg and 20kg bags available. Richardson Seed also carries several other pasture blends including **Horse and Sheep Pasture** and **Coastal Hay Baler** as well as many individual seed varieties.

Percentage by Seed Count

• Kentucky Bluegrass	13%
• Joliette Timothy	22%
• Creeping Red Fescue	16%
• Meadow Fescue	8%
• Barolex Tall Fescue	14%
• Baridana Orchardgrass	14%
• Perennial Ryegrass	13%

Forage Grass

Toxins in Forage Grasses?

Many horse owners won't feed fescues to their animals for fear of toxins in the grasses.

Here's what you need to know:

- The toxins in question are produced by a fungus termed “endophytes”
- Endophytes naturally occur in several types of grasses, improving plant vigor and health.
- Each type of grass contains different amounts of endophytes. Turf-type grasses are often bred to contain higher than normal levels of endophytes, while forage-type grasses are bred to contain zero or low levels of endophytes.
- Grasses are only infected with endophytes through the seed; they cannot be infected from other grasses.
- Upon consumption of endophyte-enhanced grasses (i.e. Turf-grass or lawn grass), livestock may get very sick.
- The best way to avoid feeding high levels of endophytes to your animals is to seed forage-type grasses that are not endophyte-enhanced.

Richardson Seed forage mixes NEVER contain endophyte-enhanced grasses.

Seeding

How to Seed or Overseed Your Pasture

- The best time to seed is in the spring and fall. Avoid seeding in the heat of summer or when in danger of frost. Consistent soil temperatures should be around 10 degrees Celsius.
- Prepare field for seeding. Perform tillage and weed control before seeding.* Fertilizer and lime may be applied before or at the time of seeding.
- Broadcast or drill a forage-type seed mix specially formulated for horses at the recommended seeding rate. If broadcasting, it is advised to seed half in one direction, followed by a second pass with the remaining seed at right angles to the first.
- After broadcasting, lightly rake then roll the seeded area. Do not cover the seed with more than ¼ inch of soil.
- Keep the area moist through establishment.
- Grass takes a year to become fully established. It is advisable to restrict grazing in the first season, not letting the pasture be grazed shorter than 3 inches.
- Depending on field conditions, annual overseeding may be necessary.

* Always follow the directions on the chemical labels.



Fertilizer

Manure Management

Proper manure management is essential to the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem. Most horse owners are unaware of the strict manure laws that are in place in British Columbia. The following are potential negative impacts on the local environment due to poor manure management practices:

- Unsafe drinking water due to ground water pollution and/or well contamination
- Animal health problems including the spread of disease among livestock
- Death of fish and other aquatic organisms
- Losing the right to farm in a rapidly urbanizing area
- Drainage problems

Manure is an excellent source of fertilizer for your fields as it provides nitrogen and other nutrients for your grass. Before spreading your manure on your fields, make sure you are following the proper management practices.

- Manure piles must be covered at all times to avoid leaching.
- Manure can be “field stored” in piles for up to nine months.
- Check local regulations about distance from wells or water used for domestic purposes.
- It is always better to spread composted manure rather than raw manure as properly made compost will retain nutrients and store them like a bank until plants require it.
- Manure should not be spread on frozen or snow covered ground.
- In BC, raw manure cannot be spread during the months of October to April when fields tend to be wet.

For more information on BC manure management regulations, please visit the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. www.gov.bc.ca/al/

Toxic Weeds

Buttercups



Driving through any part of the Fraser valley it is easy to see how buttercups have taken over the fields that most horse owners graze their horses on. Although the yellow flowers do make for a more colorful field, buttercups contain an irritant sap that can severely damage the horse's digestive system if consumed in large amounts.

Signs your horse may have ingested the plant may include:

- Blisters on skin and mucus membrane
- Bloody urine
- Weak pulse
- Twitching eye lids
- Loss of appetite
- Seizures
- Colic

There is no known antidote for buttercup poisoning. Buttercups are not the horse's first choice for food and will normally be avoided. The problem is that this avoidance causes buttercups to quickly take over an entire field if ignored.

The best way to prevent this is through pasture management. Mowing down the buttercups in the pasture and applying herbicides, such as **MCPA** at a rate of 35ml per 10L of water in a back pack sprayer are a good way of avoiding a life threatening situation for your horse. This pasture management

RICHARDSON SEED

Richardson Seed has been supplying top quality grass seed throughout BC for more than 30 years. Call us for all your pasture needs at the TerraLink office at 1-800-661-4550, or visit us online at www.tlhort.com.

will also help kill Horsetail, another poisonous weed to horses.

If you do suspect poisoning due to buttercups consult a veterinarian right away to help reduce the damage to the digestive tract.

Diseases

Strangles

In recent months there have been confirmed outbreaks of Strangles in the lower mainland area of BC. Due to this situation most equestrian centers and livestock haulers are not allowing horses to come in contact with each other through cancellations and closures. This will hopefully stop the spread of the disease and eliminate the epidemic it threatens to cause.

Strangles is a highly infectious disease that is passed to other horses through nose to nose contact, sharing common items like brushes and human hands. The onset of Strangles starts with depression, loss of appetite, and a rising temperature. After a few days the lymph node glands around the throat area start to swell and form abscesses. This can make it difficult for the horse

to breathe. The nasal discharge is the main sign most people associate with Strangles. It starts out clear at first but after the abscesses rupture into the nasal cavity the discharge will become much thicker with



definite signs of infection (puss). This puss carries the contagious disease to other horses. It is said the bacteria can survive up to eight weeks on tack or wood (according to Intervet Schering- plough Animal health, 12/12/2008).

Strangles is often very difficult to treat. The treatment is dependant on supportive care, stable management, and hygiene. The best way to avoid Strangles is by prevention through vaccination. Once the animal has the disease, quarantine will

be the best treatment. All horses that are suspected to be infected should be immediately isolated from the other horses and a vet should be contacted. Daily care of the isolated horses should be done following that of healthy horses to limit the spread of the disease. As well, infected horses should have their own tack, grooming tools, and feed buckets. The person taking care of these horses should also have separate clothing and foot wear when caring for the horses. Cleaning the barn and equipment with a disinfectant product such as **Virkon** will help eliminate bacteria which can survive to infect further.



Horses should not travel to other farms if your farm has an outbreak or the farm they are visiting is showing any warning signs of the disease. People coming to the farm need to sanitize both hands and clothing before being in contact with any other horses. **Disinfectant mats** are a good idea for outside the infected horses stalls to avoid transfer from footwear. Terralink supplies **disinfection mats, Virkon disinfectant,** and **disposable coveralls** for use if you are in a high risk situation.

The spread of Strangles can be avoided by taking simple measures to avoid cross-contaminating other horses and farms. Be sure if you are in contact with a horse on some one else's farm that you wash your hands and change your clothing before handling your own horses.

Feed & Farm Supply

Roddick Feed & Farm Supplies

Whether you ride at home, in shows or both, at Roddick Feed & Farm Supply, you'll find an extensive

selection of quality tack for Western or English riding. At Roddick's, we're happy to accommodate your special preferences, too. We'll get our hands on any item you're after at a reasonable price.



Keeping your horse healthy and in trim athletic condition is vital. A healthy horse is stronger, lives longer and is happier overall. That's why proper equine nutrition is so important. At Roddick's, we'll ensure you walk away with the right balance of daily feed and supplements for your horse. Plus, we carry feed and supplements for your livestock. Just ask us...

Horses aren't all we do. We carry brand name pet foods for all your animals about the house - large or small. Dog food, cat food, bird seed, you name it. Find the varieties you're after at competitive prices.

The Smart Choice

QuickStructures

QuickStructures offers you the best quality fabric building solution to help you protect your investments. From agricultural storage and livestock shelters, from personal vehicles storage to commercial warehousing, QuickStructures offers a building package to fit your needs.

Why Choose QuickStructures?

- Built for Strength and Durability
- ViperSteel™ Framework
- DuraWeave® Covers
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- Brighter
- More Attractive
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- Quieter
- Cost Effective



Horse Shelter

The Arch Series building shown in this pasture is used as a horse shelter. It is 30' wide by 18' long with arches at 6' on center. The structure is mounted on 8" x 8" wooden posts that are 5' above ground and 2" x 8" lumber was used to construct the three sided wall. The fabric end wall contains a 2' x 4' vent to help relieve wind pressure.

The bright, shadow-free, and echo-free interior of this structure provides a comfortable shelter that won't spook horses. It costs less than a conventional run-in and is large enough to accommodate several horses.



Horse Barn

This 26' x 30' Utility Series building has been built as a stall barn to house horses.

On the front end of the building, the customer has included windows and a garage style door for horses to enter through. The side wall clearance of the Utility building provides enough room for horses to be comfortable and allows space for feed storage along the side walls as well.

This building provides a natural environment for the horses while protecting them from inclement weather. The DuraWeave® fabric allows for a lot of natural light, eliminating the need for electric lights during the day.



Contact Information

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Oliver BC V0H 1T0
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1813-5th Street
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This is the January 2009 issue of our Equine Newsletter. If you have received this mailout by mistake, or if you don't want to receive it any more, please contact us at our toll free number.

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