

Forage Advisor

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

BC Holstein
Insert

September 2011

Silage Corn Seed

Hyland Corn: A Proven Performer



In the market for silage corn? Careful! Don't blink, or you'll be overwhelmed by a avalanche of new terminology related to genetics. However, despite all the changes in seed technology, producers have learned one thing they can count on is constant high performance of Hyland corn seed. It's time to start thinking what variety to choose for the 2012 season. Check out the data below, taken from the Pacific Field Corn Association's 2010 trials in Abbotsford, Agassiz and Armstrong. Pick Hyland. A proven performer.

Company	Hybrid	Heat Units	Dry Matter (%)	Grain (%)	Standard Yield (t/ha)	PFGA trial site
Hyland	HL SR35	2700	23.3	36.9	17.6	Agassiz
Syngenta	N33R-GT	2800	25.5	39.2	14.8	Agassiz
Maizex	LF881RR	2700	24.8	34.5	17.3	Agassiz
Hyland	HL SR35	2700	37.8	37.5	18.7	Armstrong
Elite	Muranorr	2550	37.4	48.6	18.9	Armstrong
Pioneer	38H06	2700	39.6	47.2	17.8	Armstrong
Elite	Matrix	2550	23.7	45.5	17.9	Abbotsford
Elite	Muranorr	2550	23.1	43.9	17.8	Abbotsford
Maizex	LF753	2350	25.9	48.3	17.9	Abbotsford
Hyland	HL R219	2375	25.2	46.2	18.7	Abbotsford

Soil Conservation

Winter Cover Crops

Why Cover Up? The Fundamentals of Winter Cover Crops

On dairy farms, fall cover crops are planted to provide soil cover and protection during the winter months and an early spring cut of feed. Cover crops serve multiple functions in sustainable cropping systems, by having important effects upon the soil, such as preventing soil erosion, improving tilth, structure and fertility, reducing movement of nitrates into groundwater and contributing to the management of weed, insect and plant pathogen pests.

SUMAS CORN FIELD DAY 2011



Pacific Forage Bag Supply Ltd.

It is our pleasure to invite you to our 2011 SUMAS corn trial/field day!

When: **Tuesday, Oct. 4th, 2011 at 11:00 AM**
Where: **Fadhalm Farms, 664 Whatcom Road, Abbotsford**

TerraLink

Come and see RR Hybrids in the test plot!

Please call Bryan Arthur (604-220-4879) or Lorne Campbell (604-308-2134) to confirm attendance. Everyone is welcome, and we'll see you there!

A very special thank-you to Fadhalm Farms for their help and land use and to Kevin Kielstra for the planting.



Soil Loss Due to Wind & Water

Wind erosion physically removes the lighter, less dense soil constituents such as organic matter, clay, and silt. These are the most fertile parts of the soil and losses will eventually result in lower soil productivity. Cover crops reduce wind and rain impact on the soil surface and bind soil particles together. When rain falls faster than the soil can absorb it, the surface soils reach a saturation point, and if the land is sloped, the excess water begins to flow downhill. As the water flows, it breaks off and moves small soil particles. This process can start with a small rill and develop into a large gully, with possible losses of many tonnes of soil.

Benefits of Cover Crops

Winter legume cover crops, such as vetch, can fix up to 200 lbs of nitrogen per acre. Cover crops also add organic matter which stimulates beneficial microbial growth and accelerates the formation of soil aggregates. Improved soil structure improves aeration, water infiltration and holding capacity. Grass cover crops, because of their ability to become quickly established in the fall and establish an extensive root system, have shown to be more efficient than legumes at capturing soil nitrates and preventing late fall and winter leaching into the ground water.

Rooted in your community.

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Which Cover?

Ideal fall cover crops grow quickly under cool fall conditions. Choose a cover crop that is from a different plant family than the crop that follows to break any disease or pest cycles, and will not have any toxic effects on the following crop. Select relatively inexpensive seed that is easy to establish and that fits into your cropping system.

Popular cover crop seed available at TerraLink Horticulture includes **Italian ryegrass**, **winter wheat** or **triticale** to give you a high feed value cover crop for your first cut in the spring. You can also use **fall rye** to extend your manure applications this fall while still improving your soil quality.

Some information in this article is from the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA) Winter Cover Crop Factsheet written by: Marina Gibson, P.Ag. The full article can be found by contacting ASCA at <http://www.abbotsfordsoilconservation.com>, and also at www.tlhort.com under the Latest News section on our main page or on the Forage page. For other cover crop options visit the TerraLink website **Seed section** or call your sales representative.

Save Money & Time

Fall Limestone Application: Makes Sense, Saves Dollars

The best time to apply limestone to your fields is in the fall. There are two main reasons for this. First, from an agronomic point of view it makes the most sense. What happens when limestone is applied to soil? In Fraser Valley soils there is an abundance of aluminum, which naturally reacts with water to produce hydrogen ions (H+). The presence of a concentration of H+ creates acidity. When limestone (calcium carbonate) is added to the soil, some of the calcium replaces aluminum at the cation exchange sites. Meanwhile, some of the carbonate combines with hydrogen to produce water and carbon dioxide. This reaction is not instant, especially if the limestone is not incorporated. Typically several months pass before the biggest change in pH takes place. If limestone is applied in the fall the pH should be increased just in time for fertilizing time in the spring.

The second reason for applying limestone in the fall is time. The fall is typically drier than spring so fields are better able to handle the weight of spreading equipment

without damaging the soil. Application can be timed right after the last cut of grass or directly following corn harvest. Also, bad weather in the spring with wet soils often means we can't get to all the orders in time prior to planting. Inevitably, some are cancelled and yield and quality may be compromised. It makes far more sense to do some of the spreading in the fall when we can quickly drive across dry fields. For TerraLink, this means less overtime, too!

Fall Special!

From September to December 31st, TerraLink will offer \$3.00 per tonne discount on minimum spreading orders of 20 tonnes, minimum application rate of 2 tonnes per acre. Take advantage of this Fall Special, effective on both the cost of limestone and the spreading service.



Our Terragator spreading limestone.

Plant Science Lab

Soil Testing



In both forage grass and silage corn, a soil test every couple of years is sufficient. Given the low cost per acre and the value of the information, it doesn't make sense to stretch it longer than that. For example, a Standard test package costs \$49.95, which spread over a 10 acre field is \$4.99 per acre. Over a 30 acre field the cost is only \$1.67 per acre.

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 a minor nutrient is a little low. The Detailed test package is more expensive, but also includes sodium, zinc, boron, copper, manganese and iron.

Fall is the best time to soil test. Why? Several reasons: Except for nitrogen and sulphur, most other nutrients

won't leach over winter so what is tested in the fall will generally be present in the spring. Second, both the labs and the folks who conduct soil testing are less busy than they are in the spring. Last, fall testing allows you more time to apply limestone, should the soil test indicate your field has become too acidic, as it is always drier in the fall.

Recycling Helps the Environment

Obsolete Pesticide Collection Days

Once again, CleanFARMS, with assistance from the federal government, provincial government, Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC and the BC Agriculture Council, have organized dates for collecting unwanted pesticides. Collections commence this fall in southwest BC. Now is your chance! Get rid of old, useless, un-registered, unwanted and dangerous chemicals that are slowly corroding through the bottoms of their containers in the back of your chemical sheds. Got Parathion? Now is your chance to get it out of your shed. How about DDT? Incredibly, every year a little bit more still shows up. No one asks your name, no questions asked, and its free.

Since 1998, over several collection events, over 185,000 kg of obsolete pesticides have been brought in by BC producers wanting to dispose of old chemicals in an environmentally responsible way. Even unlabeled products can be brought in. What cannot be returned are household pesticides, industrial chemicals, paint, solvents, adjuvants, liquid fertilizers or treated seed.

Mark these dates and locations on your calendar now!



Date	Location
Oct. 4	Vantreight Farms, 8277 Central Saanich Rd., Saanichton
Oct. 5	Bings Creek Solid Waste Management Complex, 3900 Drinkwater Rd., Duncan
Oct. 6	Comox Valley Regional District Waste Management Centre, 2400 Bevan Rd., Cumberland
Oct. 11-12	Evergro Canada Inc., 7430 Hopcott Rd., Delta
Oct. 19-20	Abbotsford-Mission Recycling Facility 33670 Valley Rd., Abbotsford