



Bi-Monthly
Newsletter

April 6, 2018

CaroVail

Locations

Auburn

55 Columbus St Auburn, NY 13021

800-492-4929

315-253-7379

Bernardston

472 Northfield Road

Bernardston, MA 01337

413-648-9900

Niverville

831 Route 28 Niverville, NY 12130

800-852-8012

518-784-9166

Oriskany Falls

8341 US State Rt 20

Oriskany Falls, NY 13425

888-991-9292

315-841-3201

Salem

4134 State Rt 22 Salem, NY 12865

800-390-1930

518-854-9446

Tri Valley Crop Center

337 State Hwy 162

Sprakers, NY 12166

800-800-4289

518-673-5336

Miller Spraying

8624 State Route 26

Lowville, NY 13367

315-376-6509



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Spring Soil Testing

Q: How often should fields be soil sampled?

A: Typically, every 1 – 3 years is adequate. But the real answer is: when you are not surprised by the results.

Spring is nearly here, but there is still time to do soil testing on your farm. Soil analysis provides a valuable layer of information as it helps in determining the inputs required for efficient and economic production.

A proper soil test can:

1. Help ensure the efficient application of enough fertilizer to meet the requirements of the crop
2. Help determine liming requirements
3. Help to diagnose problem areas

A good soil test is the first step in taking the “guess work” out of the equation. With higher operation costs and lower value of commodities, growers cannot afford to waste on unnecessary crop inputs, and they can neither afford lower yields or quality caused by insufficient nutrients. To schedule soil testing on your farm, please be sure to call your local CaroVail location.



Seed Delivery

Take a moment and make sure your seed barns are ready for seed deliveries. Our warehouses are full and the seed is ready to be delivered!



www.carovail.com

www.facebook.com/CaroVail

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Timing of Tillage

As we get closer to working ground up for planting, keep in mind that there is a right time and a wrong time for tillage. With large acres to cover in such a short period of time, it can be very difficult to sit idle and wait for the field conditions to be ideal. By allowing those fields to dry out a little longer, it will enable you to make a better seedbed to plant into.

Working ground that is too wet leads to compacted soils, large clods of soil, extra tillage passes, and reduced soil health – and the frustration when you need to get the bigger tractor to pull out the one that is stuck! By the time harvest comes in the fall, you might just thank yourself for waiting those couple of extra days to do tillage when you can harvest a good crop.



Cover Crop Management

The use of cover crops helps improve soil health, save nutrients, prevent erosion, and present challenges for the upcoming growing season. Cover crop management continues into the spring, so it's time to look back at your intended purpose for the cover crop, what species was used, the planting method, and the spring strategy.

Was the cover crop intended as an additional source of forage? If so, the harvest schedule will be based on quality and desired quantity depending on if it is a dairy feed, a replacement feed, or a forage for beef cattle. When using as a forage, some additional spring fertility will help increase the opportunity for both quality and quantity by adding 75 – 100 pounds of Nitrogen with 12 – 15 pounds of Sulfur and 30 – 60 pounds of Potassium at green up or early tiller.

Will corn or other row crops be planted into the stubble? Remember, when it comes to weed suppression, the addition of Glyphosate will reduce growth, but be aware of crop emergence and Glyphosate tolerance. If you're not going to use your rye cover crop and you're going to plow down, make sure you monitor spring growth and evaluate the species growth potential. Winter rye can get unruly fast, so plan a burn down at less than 18 inches of growth. It's important to remember that Glyphosate is the only thing that suppresses winter rye.

When planting into a rye cover crop following rolling or crimping, try to plant in the same direction as the rolling or crimping operation. Good soil – seed contact on the crop you are planting into the cover crop will insure better germination and uniform plant growth.

If the winter grain is to be harvested as seed and / or straw, be sure to address nutrient needs, and control weeds and potential diseases with proper application of crop protection materials. For more information about rye cover crops, please contact your local CaroVail location.



Planter Maintenance

Given the current March temperatures and snow coverage, it's hard to believe that Spring is upon us. But as spring inches closer as April progresses, it's important to check the planter in preparation for planting season. There are a lot of factors outside of our control. One thing that is in our control, however, is proper planter maintenance and inspection. Here are a few suggestions to make sure your planter starts off running smoothly and accurately for the 2018 season.

1. **Check your meters.** Having your meters properly calibrated can contribute significantly to planting. It can prevent skips, doubles, and triples from occurring. Send your monitor in to your dealer for proper testing.
2. **Check planter unit.** Checking things such as planting depth, bolts, and broken seed hoppers now will prevent delay when it's time to start planting. Check to make sure the planter unit is level, and check the hitch height and planter alignment, too.
3. **Check the drive system.** Checking all chains will prevent kinks and vibration occurring to the meter during planting.
4. **Check seed opener disks.** Having seed opener disks working properly will prevent any depth issues that may occur if they are not at the correct diameter.
5. **Check bushings and parallel linkage.** If bushings are worn, seed bounce will be increased. Check them and make sure they are tight.
6. **Check fertilizer unit.** Making sure the fertilizer unit is adjusted correctly will ensure that the correct amount of fertilizer is added at planting. Are the hoses working properly? What about the tanks and hoppers?



7. **Check insecticide boxes.** Ensuring there are no holes or leaks in the insecticide box will prevent spills, leaks, and loss of product.
5. **Check closing wheels.** Check for wear and tear on bearings. They may be damaged and need to be adjusted or replaced.
6. **Check row cleaners.** Adjust or replace due to wear and tear.
7. **Check coulters.** Adjust or replace if unstable.
8. **Check depth wheels.** Check diameter and depth. Adjust or replace if damaged.
9. **Check seed firmers.** If too worn, in furrow depth may be affected. Germination will be improved if working properly.
10. **Check seed tubes.** Replace or adjust seed tubes to prevent tubes curling and seed becoming caught.
11. **Safety.** Check the lights, SMV emblem, and safety chains. Remember, a successful planting season is a safe planting season.

Ten Day Weather Report Average

	Approx. Weekly Rainfall (in)	Avg. Expected High Temp Next Week (F)	Avg. Expected Low Temp Next Week (F)	GDD (Base 50) since Jan 1	GDD (Base 50) since Mar 1	GDD (Base 50) since Apr 1	GDD (Base 50) since May 1
Auburn	2.89	51	33	5.5	0	0	-
Bernardston	3.74	48	31	11.2	0	0	-
Lowville	4.08	40	28	2.6	0	0	-
Niverville	.44	49	35	17	0	0	-
Oriskany Falls	3.77	43	31	12.2	0	0	-
Salem	2.71	51	33	12.2	0	0	-
TVCC	2.45	48	34	5.7	0	0	-

Organization and preparation are key to a successful season when events out of our control occur. Staying on top of planter maintenance is just one of the many ways you can stay organized this planting season.