

# Tools For Success in Re-vegetating & Re-seeding Forages

by Bill McGill & Sandra Burton



*Sandra Burton led a discussion of how we can use 3 tools for success, air photos, soils maps & CLI maps and what we can learn from each.*

Each station leader introduced their topic or approach to the problem or question of the day. It was quite entertaining when they then told us about what soil, plant or seed they had always dreamed of being.

We focussed on **3 soils stations** in the morning, with a half an hour at each place, to find out about each approach for more successful revegetating and reseeded. Discussions at Sandra Burton's station must have stimulated some take home messages, as the box of soils maps she brought was empty at the end of the day.



*Maja Krzic introduced us to the UBC soils website & on line courses.*

Maja Krzic's online soils courses were recognized by several people as a resource for further study and future professional development.

Amidst the laughter at Bill McGill's station, the take home messages were "wow! I never realized how complex things are below ground." and "There is certainly more to worry about than just the top 6 inches."

Richard Kabzems kept our tradition of telling us landscape stories at lunch. However, Chris Thomson vetoed this from happening outdoors on a windy cold ridge top at this time of year.



*Everyone had fun learning from Bill McGill about microbes & their habitats.*

# Tools For Success (continued)

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**In the afternoon** we focussed on **3 plant stations**. After the discussions and demos with Charles Burnett and Allen Dobb, the participants were very excited about the database and the upcoming opportunity to access and interact with the forage seeding interactive database or ForSID.

Morgan Webb shared his passion for seed quality and using the analysis as a tool for more successful seeding projects. We heard comments that reflected an increased knowledge about the importance of certified verses common seed for many situations.



*Morgan Webb showed us the importance of seed quality & analysis as a tool for success.*

## Feedback We Have Received:

- ◇ More effort and coordination with resource people is needed in an interactive, hands-on format rather than a lecture format.
- ◇ Participants were very complimentary about what is learned during this style of field day.
- ◇ Participants commented on how much more effective the integrated take home messages are.
- ◇ Our most rewarding feedback is people keep asking when the next session of this course is.
- ◇ Where pre-registration is not common, we have people committing ahead of time for all 5 days.

### Photo Credits:

Allen Dobb & Bill McGill

### Thank you to our partners:

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*Charles Burnett & Allen Dobb demonstrated the use of the new forage seeding web tool.*

Elston Solberg and Julie Robinson stirred up interest in digging up roots, and learning more about pH and nutrient relationships. Several farmers wanted to explore the use of Mo or molybdenum as a “poor man’s lime”.

Bill Wilson and Bill McGill led us in a fun and lively discussion to integrate all the tidbits learned throughout the day (and this course to date) into take home messages. Amongst the joking, there was a lot of positive feedback and great suggestions for future sessions. The best part was people were appreciating the amazing brain power that the group would have in the room for solving the challenges out in the field.



*Elston Solberg & Julie Robinson shared stories from what the plants are telling us.*

“The thing that impressed me was so many different groups of people all working together: farmers, academics, consultants, gas and oil people; everybody was trying to work positively together on common problems.” *One Participant*

### Thank you to our enthused station masters:

Maja Krzic, Morgan Webb, Allen Dobb, Charles Burnett, Elston Solberg, Julie Robinson, Bill McGill, Sandra Burton

### Thank you to our knowledgeable mentors:

Bill Wilson, Richard Kabzems, Darryl Kroeker, Talon Johnson, Rick Kantz, Jim Chramosta