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SOIL-PLUS™ & CROP™ Enhance Potato Yields (Australia)

ABSTRACT

In Melbourne, Australia, a field study was conducted to determine the cost benefits of Biofeed products and to measure the efficacy in enhancing the production of potatoes. The results show that when used as a regular part of a fertility program, Biofeed products can raise production and crop quality to improve the bottom line for the grower.

BACKGROUND

Potatoes are a common crop worldwide and are marketed whole, chopped or ground to the consumer or commercial market, and the grower is constantly seeking new methods to increase yields while reducing costs. Chemical fertilizers contribute to soil compaction and have proven to destroy beneficial soil bacteria. Conversely, by supporting a healthy soil bacterial population, soil conditions improve, insects such as nematodes are kept under control, and yields increase.

APPLICATION

Both CROP™ and SOIL-PLUS™ were applied at a rate of 2.3 L/ha and 3.45 L/ha respectively, once every 25-30 days. SOIL-PLUS™ was applied through the irrigation, and CROP™ was foliar applied. The products were compared to a standard fertilizer program and a control plot. The plots were chosen at random and were numbered for positive identification.

RESULTS

Plot No.	Treatment	No of tubers/unit area.
7335	Std Fertilizer	50- 122 Bu/ha
9489	CROP™ + SOIL-PLUS™ 2.30L/ha	66- 159 Bu/ha
9462	CROP™ + SOIL-PLUS™ 3.45 L/ha	68-160 Bu/ha
6821	Control	41- 100 Bu/ha

SUMMARY

The Biofeed treated plot No. 9489 produced 37 more bushels per hectare than the standard fertilized plot. Plot No. 9462 was treated with 1.15 liters more of Biofeed products, yet the increased rate did not result in a substantial improvement over plot No. 9489. The Biofeed treated plots produced a more consistent tuber size and weight and had an 80% marketability rate as whole potatoes and 20% as ground potato products. The standard fertilized plots only produced 47% consistent tuber size and weight. Producing a consistent crop of potatoes raises the bushel value and raises profitability for the grower.

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