

Prosol AgriGrow –a new and effective solution to control phytophthora in avocado crops

A South West avocado orchardist is successfully controlling phytophthora and other water-borne viruses with an eco-friendly product that has revived his young trees badly hit by the disease.

Nico Botha attributes the health of his 2-3 year-old mixed-variety avocado orchard in Scott River to a product he says has had an enormous positive impact on his soil and plant health.

The product is Prosol AgriGrow, a concentrated ionic solution that improves water quality, increases nutrient uptake and improves plant health due to its formulation of non-toxic mineral compounds. It contains Ag, Zn, Cu, Fe, N and water.

"I have been adding Prosol to my irrigation for 18 months, with rapid, positive results.

"My trees were dying from phytophthora. They were sticks. As soon as I started using Prosol, they regained leaves, started flowering and made many more new and healthy shoots."



BEFORE



AFTER



Nico's primary water source is a dam which collects runoff from bushland. The water quality is excellent, barring the area's prevalence of phytophthora.

Every irrigation session is injected with Prosol, the exception being when fertigation occurs. A recommended dosage rate of 1:150,000 litres was a starting point for Nico, who used higher ratios based on plant requirements and his judgement. He tests soils and petioles regularly.

The success of the product has enabled him to cut hydrogen peroxide from his program. He believes Prosol can be used as a replacement for phos acid, hydrogen peroxide and most other root treatments for phytophthora. "Initially I used hydrogen peroxide, but I've found this product has allowed me to cut it out my program.

Pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides are not used at the orchard. Weeds are controlled with steam and manually by hand. The efficacy of Prosol benefits the entire orchard, with greater nutrient uptake enriching every tree.

"Prosol cleans the roots of bacteria, virus and fungus allowing the plant to take up the nutrients that it wants and needs.

Phytophthora travels through the water and Prosol, through irrigation, travels to the same places as the phytophthora. Nico has reduced the level of fertiliser he uses but still applies enough to maintain nitrogen levels.

Nico has used 20 litres of Prosol over an 18-month timeframe and rates the cost per season as negligible when all benefits are considered.



Prosol AgriGrow is available exclusively in Australia from Cowaramup Agencies
Contact Mike Slegers, Cowaramup Agencies, mike@cowag.com.au, m: 0436 128112