

Sweet deal for better growth

A new ammonium stabiliser added to nitrogen fertilisers has provided a better sweet potato crop for a grower in the Childers area.

Tony Grima switched to using ENTEC® Nitrophoska Special® in his crops after receiving advice from his fertiliser supplier Sunfam, in Bundaberg.

Tony said he has seen a significant improvement in the growth and vigour of the crop after sidedressing 450 kg/ha of ENTEC Nitrophoska Special in the 14 hectares of sweet potatoes that he grows on his property near Childers in Queensland.

“I found that the sweet potatoes grown with ENTEC Nitrophoska Special were a better looking crop overall,” Tony said.

“It was a greener crop with bigger potatoes that were far more advanced. This ended up shortening the growing time compared with the potatoes that didn’t have an application of ENTEC Nitrophoska Special.”

ENTEC slows down the process of nitrification, which helps retain more nitrogen in the ammonium form, therefore reducing spikes or flushes of nitrate and lowering the risk of nitrate leaching and denitrification losses.

Trials conducted in Europe showed that fertilisers treated with ENTEC have the potential to increase yields and improve the quality of horticultural crops.

Sunfam’s Colin Henrickson, an ENTEC accredited distributor, recommended Tony use an ENTEC fertiliser because of how it complemented vegetable growing conditions.

Colin said ENTEC had many benefits for vegetable growers in the Childers-Bundaberg areas with sandy loam soils, especially when heavy rainfall is forecast.



Tony Grima has found that ENTEC has helped improve the quality and growing time of his sweet potato crop.

“Soon after Tony had applied ENTEC Nitrophoska Special, we had six inches of rain, which would normally have led to significant nitrogen leaching, especially on sandy soils,” Colin said.

“However, we found that the ENTEC helped significantly reduce the leaching and the retained nitrogen helped grow greener and more advanced crops.”

Tony Grima on ENTEC fertilisers :

- Improved yield
- Improved size and quality of sweet potato crop
- Reduced nitrogen leaching on sandy soils following heavy rainfall.

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