PyroAg®

Wood Vinegar

CASE STUDY

PyroAg Wood Vinegar trials gains confidence for growers at Queensland Citrus Farm

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Confidence grows — as amount of fungicide reduces

Nestled in Gayndah, Queensland, lies the expansive Top Citrus & Benyenda orchards, a 170-hectare citrus farm operated by Averial & Murray Benham.

This family-owned business yields 6500 tonnes of citrus annually, gracing the shelves of retail giants like Coles and Woolworths, with an additional 40% exported to countries as distant as China and India. The Benham family, including their son Matthew and daughter-in-law Rachael, play a significant role in the farm's operation.

The orchards, home to a variety of citrus fruits including mandarins, oranges, lemons, grapefruits, limes, and mangoes, face the challenge of diseases such as Alternaria Alternata. Matthew Benham, in pursuit of sustainable solutions and reduced fungicide use, decided to trial PyroAg Wood Vinegar through Glenn Finlay of One Earth QLD. The experiment involved PyroAg Wood Vinegar, applied at half the fungicide rate, over a 2-hectare Daisy Mandarin plot. The results were encouraging – consistent control of Alternaria and fewer pests compared to conventional methods.

An appointed Pest Monitor echoed these positive findings, noting that the trees appeared balanced, and the consistent progress observed as PyroAg Wood Vinegar was applied every three weeks in alignment with fungicide schedules. **Impressed by the outcomes, Matthew expanded its use to encompass 18 hectares of lemon trees.** In fact, PyroAg Wood Vinegar became an integral part of the entire farm's operations, reflecting Matthew's commitment to adopting more sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.

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Last year's consumption stood at 3000 litres, a number projected to reach 10,000 litres this year. **The rationale behind this integration extends beyond immediate gains; it underscores the commitment to nurturing soil microbes and reducing synthetic fertiliser dependence**. Matthew's hands-on approach and unwavering dedication resulted in healthier plants, diminished pests, and strides towards their sustainability vision.

The upcoming trial block's state in October will serve as the litmus test for this approach. The journey undertaken by the Benham family exemplifies the positive impact that innovative agricultural practices like PyroAg Wood Vinegar can have on enhancing crop yield and fostering more environmentally conscious farming methods.

The PyroAg Wood Vinegar trials underscore the value of integrating scientific knowledge with practical implementation, offering a sustainable and effective approach to modern agricultural challenges.