

Healthy Plants – Healthy People

PEANUTS - RESTORING SOIL BIOLOGY

By Trevor Galletly¹ Peter Van Beek¹, Version 3 – Jan 2025

Summary

Humic acid and Liquid Sea Minerals were applied to avocados. At harvest the fruit weight was increased by 10%. By supplying soil biology foods, the soil structure and nutrient availability improved thereby allowing larger nuts to be produced. Bio-Booster was not used in this trial.

Trial

The trial was conducted near Bundaberg in 2020.

Applications of Liquid Sea Minerals 5 L/ha and Humic Acid 15 L/ha were applied by boom spray soon after emergence and followed by overhead irrigation.

Treated area – 4 beds with 8 rows equal to 1.25 hectares.

The Sea Minerals supplies many nano minerals in small amounts. Generally, these are not used in farming today. The humic acid is soil biology food.

Later in the crop, leaf sugars as measured by refractometer* showed a 20% increase in treated rows.

Result

There was only a small yield increase but there was a marked increase in nut size. This gave almost 50% increase in large Jumbo grade which commands a premium price.

This gave \$520/ha increase in returns to the farmer.



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*A refractometer is a hand-held device that measures the sugar content of a solution and is expressed as Brix units.