CASE STUDY

Cleanaway Compost trial doubles Brassica growth rate



FARM LOCATION Oberon, NSW

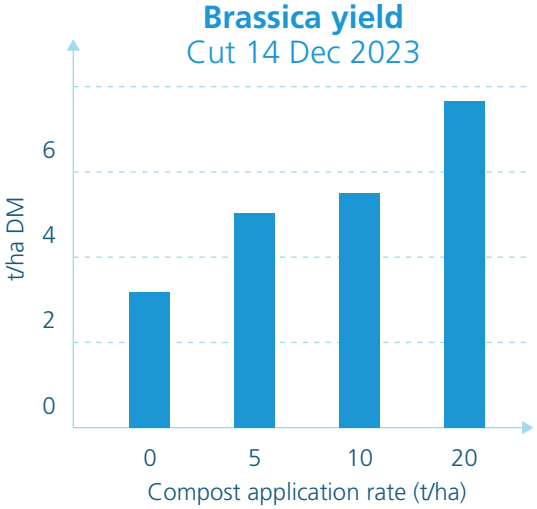
THE TRIAL

Having used compost products in the past, Oberon farmer, Mark Nunan, was no stranger to their benefits. After hearing about a new compost product on the market - Cleanaway compost, Mark was excited to put it to the test.

Looking to boost crop performance, Mark undertook renovation on a run-down lucerne paddock. Having a history of single super and lime applications, the paddock had good levels of PH and phosphorus, but additional micro-nutrients were needed.

The paddock was sprayed to eliminate weeds and divided into four two-hectare plots, with each plot receiving varying application rates of Cleanaway's compost. Forage Brassica was sown as a short-term grazing crop (across the whole area).

- Plot 1: Control - no additional fertiliser or compost
- Plot 2: 5t/ha of compost
- Plot 3: 10t/ha of compost
- Plot 4: 20t/ha of compost



Ten weeks after the compost was spread, independent agronomist, Neil Nelson, conducted soil tests and meausred cuts from each plot.

RESULTS

The 5t/ha application rate boosted crop yield by 58%, however the best results came from 20t/ha, where growth occurred at nearly 2.5 times that of the control plot.

Neil said, "The crop certainly showed good yield improvements from the short-term addition of nutrients, and benefits are expected to continue into the future."

Mark was also pleased with the results and is continuing to spread Cleanaway compost on his own farm, as well as supplying and spreading compost to other farms in his region.



A colour and size difference was evident between the control (nil) (RHS of image) and the 20t/ha treatment (LHS of image)



A colour difference was evident between the control (nil) (along the fence) and the 5t/ha treatment strip (LHS)



A visible difference in the size of Brassica from the 20t/ha compost treatment (LHS) vs the control (nil) on RHS

Cleanaway compost is manufactured in Cleanaway's Eastern Creek Organics facility. Made from food organics and garden organics (FOGO), which includes food scraps and garden clippings from local households, this product recycles valuable nutrients, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to the circular economy by reducing waste and promoting sustainable practices. Cleanaway is excited to be recovering and returning these valuable nutrients back to farmland, helping to enrich soils, support healthier ecosystems and a make a sustainable future possible.

Trial conducted between September - December 2023

Yield response (t/ha DM) from different compost application rates

Rate of application	Yield (cut 1) t/ha DM	Yield increase over control
0/ha	3.17	0
5 t/ha (wet)	5.02	58%
10 t/ha (wet)	5.50	173%
20 t/ha (wet)	7.68	242%

"The lucerne paddock wasn't performing as well as I would like, and I wanted to restore it to a lucerne paddock. Compost was a great way to improve the paddocks in the long term. The trial strips showed better colour and more growth, and a better crop means healthier cattle and higher meat production, which is the aim at the end of the day." **Mark Nunan - Oberon NSW Farmer**

Order our Cleanaway compost today and let the results speak for themselves.
Call **02 9677 3120** or email **nswcompost@cleanaway.com.au.**