

Case Study Pico Agriculture

Evergreen 88, Australia

Background

Evergreen 88 is a Hydroponic Farming operation located in South Eastern Queensland, Australia. The farm, situated over 12 acres, grows a variety of Lettuce, Asian Vegetables and Herbs in NFT Hydroponic systems using both protected and unprotected cropping structures. Between 50,000 and 100,000 plants are produced each rotation, 11 times per year.



Protected and unprotected Hydroponic systems

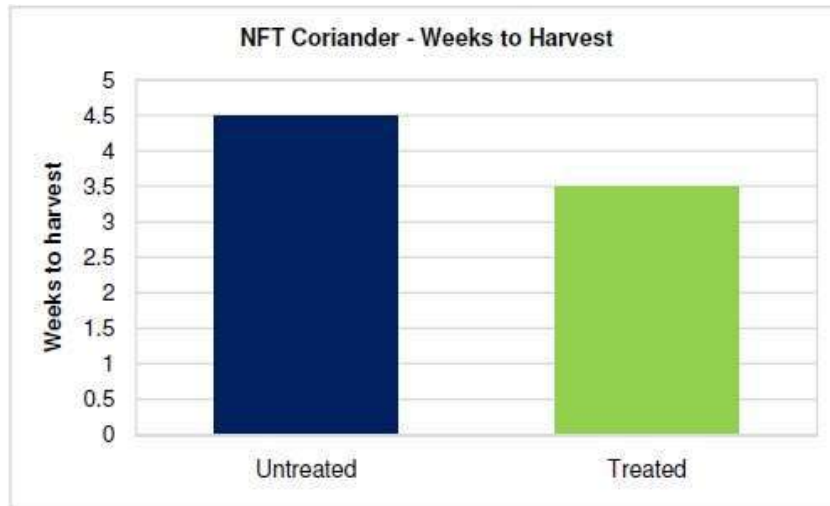
Fertilizer is added to the irrigation water using automated dosing tanks. Electrical Conductivity (EC) is maintained at 1.1 mmhos/cm, pH is maintained at approximately 6.4, and late summer temperatures average 89°F. To evaluate the effectiveness of Pico Agriculture, Evergreen 88 tested Pico Agriculture in a single section of their farm, fed by a single 2,641 gallon tank, focusing on the production of lettuce and coriander.

Implementation

Over a twelve week period, Pico Agriculture was added to the 2,641 gallon tank at 10ppm or 3.5oz per day. Treating the 25,000 plants in this section of the farm with Pico Agriculture cost approximately \$0.01 per fully grown plant.

Grower Observations

Dependent on the variety of plant grown on the farm, rotation times average 4 to 5 weeks. After treatment with Pico Agriculture, this rotation time was improved to 3 to 4 weeks. The difference in plant rotation time equates to additional harvests each year.



Growth times for Coriander. Comparison between Untreated and Treated plant showing reduced growth cycle time using Pico Agriculture



Anh Ah showing the typical difference between Untreated (Left- affected by Pythium) and Treated (Right- clean healthy roots) in Coriander.

Other improvements noted by the farm include:

- Improved vigor
- Lower mortality
- Stronger, healthier root mass
- Consistent growth patterns
- Better color and improved shelf life