

Grower Story

Organic Productivity

Grower: Ken Small

Location: Cudgen Organics, Northern NSW

Organic production using Petrik soil inoculants

Ken Small, of Cudgen Organics, in Northern NSW, was an early adopter of Petrik Soil Inoculants, understanding the productivity advantages of biological balancing well before it was talked about in mainstream agriculture.

Ken runs a high yielding fully organic system, however he did not start out as an organic grower. It was the adverse impact some chemicals on the health of his family that was the catalyst to switch to organic production. The fact that Petrik soil inoculants are Australian Organic Certified meant the switch to organic production was easy.

Ken is passionate about quality he can produce, explaining, "The organic produce looks as good as conventional produce, but on a nutrient density level it absolutely excels."

Ken Small has been treating his soil with Petrik biology now for a whopping 27 years! That's right. Every year. Absolute consistency. Both at planting and again at cover crop and stubble incorporation.

Why every year you may ask. "It is simple", according to Ken "I treat the soil because it works. The soil treatment is consistent, reliable and gives me the results that I want."



Soil Softening Boosts Productivity

Ken says it is the results that made him adhere to the system long term. In fact in Australia 98% of people using the soil inoculants are conventional growers, with soil health and productivity advantages being the main driver. For many, sustainability, reef and river-safe formulations and organic factors are bonuses.

The Petrik soil inoculants maximise nutrient availability allowing the plants to drive its own nutrient supply. When the soil and plant root exudates are set up to work in synergy, plants can extract exactly what they need. The soil inoculants activate the same processes that occur in nature in fertile systems.

Ken explains, "When I first started on the system nobody else was using these approaches. Instead of explaining myself, I just did my own thing and quietly reaped the rewards."

Ken has an impressive record. He participated on the first Petrik trials in Australia 27 years ago on his sweet potato crops. And all these years later he continues to achieve high yields in his sweet potato and other productive crops like snow peas.