

## Grower Story

# Sunflower: Award Crop 2015

Grower: Mark & James Elsley

Location: "Inverness", NSW

## Rosebowl Trophy

The Elsley Family, "Inverness" Spring Ridge, won the prestigious 2015 Premier Rosebowl Cup for the best sunflower crop. Mark and James had sown the crop in the best paddock with known good weed control and with a full profile of moisture. Their prize winning crop of Sunflowers was Hyleic 41 — a Pacific Seeds medium to full season maturing variety with excellent disease resistance, semi-pendulous heads and good production of mono-unsaturated oil. The crop received approximately 180 mm of in crop rainfall.

## Low Nitrogen, No Phosphorus

Mark used the Petrik System and pre applied 60 units of nitrogen. He used no phosphorus, which has now become his practice since using Petrik soil inoculants.

Despite a range of challenging soils with high pH, sodicity, salinity and low Ca/Mg ratios in the mix, no phosphorus was used at all since starting on the Petrik Soil Technology program.



Average head size was 16cm

**Soil Type:** High Clay Soil (Grey Vertosol) pH 7.5-8 (CaCl<sub>2</sub>)  
**Sown:** 19 December 2014 (John Deere Max emerge)  
**Density:** 29 000 plants/ha (intended); 25 000 plants/ha (actual)  
**Row Spacing:** 75 cm (30 inch)  
**Previous Crop:** Sorghum (Harvested May-2014)  
**Harvest:** 13 May 2015  
**Yield:** 2.26 t/ha (average head size approx. 16 cm)



2015 Rosebowl champions — best sunflower crop

Mark planted sunflowers at the low rate of 30,000 seeds/ha aiming bigger seeds for the confectionery market and because the season was predicted to be a tough one.

Initially Mark used Evergreen, then a few years later he switched to Digestor for even higher production, with the initial trials showing added advantage.

This crop was not sprayed with an insecticide or fungicide, which is a common experience of long-term Petrik users. This was not considered in the judging process, even though this meant substantial cost savings.

**Rosebowl competition is judged pre-harvest. The judges estimated the crop would yield 2.3t/ha. The results were even better than their predicted!**

**The results showed that large areas of the crop ended up yielding 3t/ha. A top crop in any season.**

**Nutrition:** The crop received 75 kg N/ha (166 kg/ha urea) Petrik Soil Technology Inputs (applied at sowing down the furrow) 500 ml/ha **Digestor** (microbes to assist the conversion of organic matter through to humus) 500 ml/ha **Green Manure Plus** (provides protection and support for microbial colonies) 400 ml/ha **Headstart** (applied to increase seed germination and root development)