

MICROSTAR PMX PRECISION STARTER FERTILISER

Microstar® offers a great start to emerging seed crops

Tasmanian poppy grower, George Griffin became convinced of the merits of Microstar® a few years ago when his agronomist suggested he sow half a field with Microstar and half with no Microstar.

"Visually there was a stark difference in root development in the Microstar half, with the root's structure looking 30% to 40% healthier than those from the traditional side," George said.

"In my opinion, Microstar is ideally designed for small seed crops that need a helping hand in the first 6 to 8 weeks of their life."

Today, George firmly believes that "...using Microstar is like buying insurance, you don't know when something is going to hit you (like bad weather or disease), but Microstar is your insurance policy".

"If the plants have an advanced root system and stress conditions occur, such as adverse weather during the growing season, the plant is much better equipped to come through the stress without loss of quality (yield, alkaloid etc...)," he added.

"I use Microstar in my poppy nutrition program as it provides the emerging plants with a great start.

"I also find I get stronger plants with no purple struggling weak plants (purple is a sign of Phosphate deficiency) which is a common sight when young plants are searching for nutrition.

"Traditional fertiliser is sown away from the seed, but Microstar is sown direct with the seed allowing the plants to form a much more even and stronger developed root system."

George's property is located on the north-west coast of Tasmania on luscious, good draining volcanic red soil. He also grows many other crops in rotation with the poppies, such as onions, flower bulbs, pyrethrum and potatoes. Currently he only uses Microstar on the poppy crop but is looking at trialing it with his onions in 2016.

The poppy crop is managed on a 4 year rotation, with this year's crop being 25ha. The sowing program starts in mid-September with an initial soil test, followed by the pre-spreading of a single superphosphate. Microstar is then direct drilled with the seed using an air seeder at a rate of 30kg/ha and potash.

According to George, Microstar's point-of-difference from traditional fertilisers is that it is direct drilled with the seed.

"It really does help plants get a good start on life in the first 6 to 8 weeks and only needs to be applied once," he added.

"Microstar also sets the plants up with a strong root system that can then efficiently utilise the base fertiliser.

"Irrigation is by hard hose, as the farm does not lend itself to centre pivots."

Approximately 8 weeks after sowing the herbicide program is finished and the fungicide program starts. At this point a soil Nitrogen test is taken, which determines when additional top dressing Nitrogen is applied, normally as the plants are running-up.

Foliar fertiliser is also used when needed at the same time as fungicides are applied. Fungicides stop around mid-flowering.

For George, the future is using Microstar when sowing his poppy crop as it helps to produce a plant "...that is the healthiest it can possibly be".



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Effective and easy-to-use micro granule fertiliser

Microstar PMX is a high-performance precision starter fertiliser

- High number of contact points close to the seed
- High use coefficient - 100% assimilable Phosphorus (P) with 'PPT' technology
- Contributes to more even crop emergence
- Increases vegetative development
- Also contains 10% Nitrogen (N)
- Provides essential micronutrients Boron (B), Copper (Cu), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Molybdenum (Mo) and Zinc (Zn)

Microstar PMX is cost-effective and easy-to-use

- Low application rate per hectare
- Reduces application time, labour & energy costs (fuel savings & equipment wear)

Microstar PMX is environmentally-friendly

- High use coefficient of P & N
- Safe to the crop & soft on the environment

For further information, visit agnova.com.au

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