

Easy, efficient fertiliser application boosts growth and quality at East Palmerston



EASIER fertiliser applications, more efficient nutrient usage and improved growth and fruit quality have been the strong benefits of switching to a new specialist fertiliser blend for East Palmerston banana growers Michael and Gail Dunne and their son, Matthew.

The Dunnes have about 40 hectares under banana production at East Palmerston, via Innisfail, with their produce sold mainly to the Adelaide market and also to Melbourne. They also run cattle on their property.

Michael said the family previously applied fertiliser mixes that were blended and potassium nitrate through their irrigation system, while they also spread Nitrophoska every four to six weeks throughout the plantation.

“We had a spreader on a tractor going up every row,” Michael said.

“We were using two bags every four to six weeks, but with a good rain it was gone.”

He said the family was now applying the new ‘Banana One-Shot’ fertiliser blend developed by Lindsay Rural and Haifa generally every week.

The one shot fertiliser product, which is based on the high quality Haifa fertiliser, Poly-Feed, comprises pure plant nutrients and generous quantities of essential micro-elements such as magnesium, boron and zinc.

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East Palmerston banana grower Michael Dunne and Haifa Australia Queensland Sales Agronomist Peter Anderson pictured with a vat where the Banana One-Shot fertiliser is dissolved prior to its injection through the irrigation.



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Banana One-Shot dissolves really well in the vat with no sediment. You could just about drink the water 45 minutes later. It is so much easier and time becomes money.

MICHAEL DUNNE



Peter and Michael discuss the use of the new Banana One-Shot fertiliser blend for the family's plantation.

Banana One-Shot Analysis

Total nitrogen (N)	13%
Nitrate-nitrogen (N-NO ₃)	7.8%
Ammoniacal nitrogen (N-NH ₄)	5.2%
Phosphorus (P)	0.17%
Soluble in water and in neutral ammonium-citrate solution	
Potassium (K)	24%
Sulphur (S)	8.7%
Magnesium (Mg)	2.1%
Micro Nutrients	
Boron (B)	900 ppm
Iron (Fe)*	500 ppm
Zinc (Zn)*	440 ppm
Manganese (Mn)*	250 ppm
Copper (Cu)*	55 ppm
Molybdenum (Mo)	35 ppm

* EDTA-chelated



"We try to put it out every week and it is easy to do," Michael said.

"We have got three pump sites, so the bags suit us. We put out three bags when we do it. We put it straight into a vat and it mixes and then goes through the irrigation.

"We start the pump up, it goes for three quarters of an hour and it's gone. We put it in for the last 15 minutes of the irrigation.

"It dissolves really well in the vat with no sediment. You could just about drink the water 45 minutes later.

"It is so much easier – and time becomes money."

He said the weekly applications meant they now had nutrients in the soil "all of the time" and the Banana One-Shot had improved production.

"We noticed the difference in growth last year and we have noticed the benefit in the fruit."

"The fruit colour is very good," Michael said.



Further information

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Banana One-Shot

Exclusively available through Lindsay Rural



LINDSAY RURAL

A Division of **LINDSAY AUSTRALIA**

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