NOTES Jan 19 Vineyards Improving irrigation infiltration and efficiency

Key Points about IrriGate

Can improve irrigation efficiency by up to 30% and reduce leaching

Is very cost effective <\$30/block ha per season

Improves penetration and infiltration of water into difficult to wet or capped soils

Is not phytotoxic to plant material and therefore will not harm plants even if applied directly onto leaf surfaces

Is a non-ionic formulation and therefore will not cause corrosion to equipment and fittings

Can be applied in conjunction with Gypsum and other crop management products

The Product

IrriGate is not a PAM. It is a non-ionic, liquid blend of co-polymers which mixes easily with all types of irrigation water. As IrriGate is derived from a new field of surfactant technology, it allows growers to use a highly effective soil surfactant at an affordable price. It is available in 20L, 200L and 1000L litre plastic drums.

What does IrriGate do?

IrriGate is a specialised soil surfactant. It enables growers to improve the infiltration and penetration of water in certain hydrophobic soils and improve the lateral movement of water to more effectively cover the plants root zone. IrriGate also reduces water loss due to run-off and evaporation, improving the efficiency of irrigation by up to 30%.

Mode of Action

The polymers in IrriGate enable the water molecule to adhere to hydrophobic soil particles and therefore enhance their capacity to absorb water. This action then creates a more uniform wetting of the root zone and allows moisture to move more freely throughout the soil profile.

Irrigate in Vineyards

The photo's below show the response from an application of 5 litres per hectare.

Moisture penetration was improved from 10cm in the untreated area up to 25-30cm in the treated area. These photographs were taken within 24 hours of the application and 20 mm of micro sprinkler irrigation.

Untreated



IrriGate at 5L per hectare



Always read the entire label prior to use.

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TECH BULLETIN



Vineyards: Improving irrigation infiltration and efficiency



Untreated dripper - dry soil below crusty surface



Treated dripper - much improved distribution

General Rates of Use in Vineyards

Situation	Rate	Critical Comments
Injection through irrigation systems	2.5 - 10 Litres / ha	Apply through any type of irrigation system. An initial application of 5L/ha followed by applications of 2.5L/ha approximately 8 weeks apart, or as needed.
Conventional sprayers	2.5 - 10 Litres / ha	Irrigation or rainfall should follow application.
Transplant purposes	I litre per 1,000 litres of transplant water	Apply with first watering after transplanting.





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