

Fibrophos; pre-planting incorporation of chicken based fertilizerObjective

Assess the use and benefits of recycled chicken waste product, Fibrophos, as a phosphate source for pre-planting ground application in bush cider orchards.

Duration of trial 3 years

Site H P Bulmer`s Farm at Penrhos, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

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Soil

Variable. E side is Bromyard, deep well drained fine silty red soil. W side, mostly Conway series, deep, stony, fine silty, clayey soils.
Phosphate in trial area varies between index 0 - 1.
Cider orchard planted into fallow in March 1997

Treatments

Soil amendments to be made pre-planting in February 1997.

- 1] Fibrophos. Granulated formulation of standard rate N0 : P24 : K15
 - 2] Other phosphate source.
- Spread at 5cwt/acre and incorporated.

Records

Growth of 20 trees x replicate 2 blocks per treatment were recorded:-

- 1] Tree girth, height, number of shoots at planting.
- 2] Tree girth, height, number of shoots at end of each season.
- 3] Soil test pre-amendment.

Results end of Year 1 [1997]

Phosphate Source	No. Of Laterals	Leader Extension	Girth At End Of Year	Girth Increment
Orthophos	10.0	52.0	7.35	2.34
Fibrophos	10.6	58.5	7.60	2.57

NOTE: All measurements in cm.

Trees in areas where soil was amended with Fibrophos prior to planting have grown slightly but not significantly more in their first year than those which received standard orthophosphate incorporation.