



Reduced Salt Injury on Avocado Nursery Stock

Crop/Variety: Hass Avocados

Location: Oxnard, CA (2014)

Investigator: Anthony Duttler, Product Development Representative, Aquatrols

Demonstration Update

Objective

Demonstrate the effects of WaterMaxx2 on improving water retention and reducing salt injury on Avocado nursery stock.

Set Up

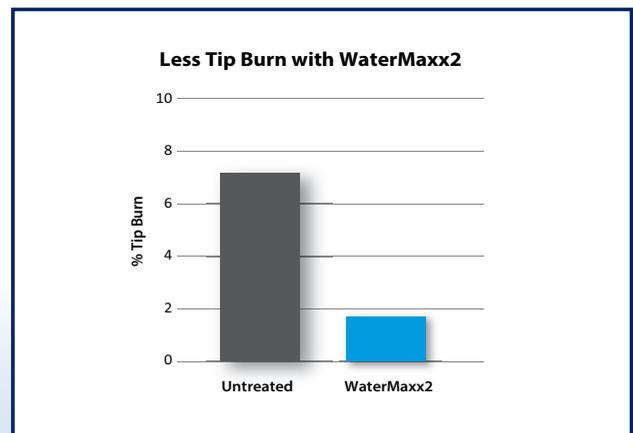
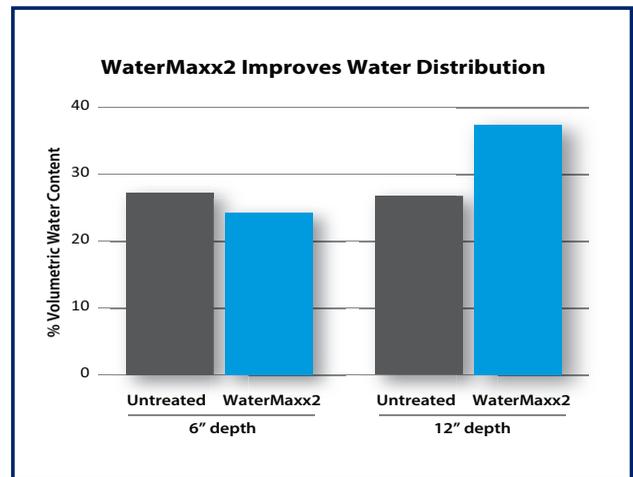
Avocado container nursery stock was grown on a site with heavy soils and high salt levels. The irrigation water had a high pH and high salt loads. Probes that measured soil moisture at 6 and 12 inches were installed at 3 locations in each plot prior to the first application. Effects of WaterMaxx2 were made by evaluating soil moisture, tip-burn and observation of new growth. Soil moisture was measured throughout the season at the 6 and 12 inch depths and the seasonal averages at each depth were calculated. Tip-burn evaluations were taken on August 29 by observing 200-250 plants per treatment and noting the number with tip-burn. On September 12 the percentage of plants showing new growth were noted and plant height measurements were collected by randomly measuring 50 plants across each plot.

Application

Two quarts of WaterMaxx2 were applied per acre via the drip system on August 6 and September 6, 2014.

Results

Soil moisture was averaged over August and September. WaterMaxx2 slightly decreased the moisture content at 6 inches and increased the moisture at the 12 inch depth from 26% in the untreated to 37% in the treated. This shows that WaterMaxx2 improved the distribution of water by allowing more of it to move more deeply into the rootzone.



Observation of tip burn on August 29 indicated a reduction in tip burn from 7.3% to 1.7% in the plots treated with WaterMaxx2.

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Results may vary depending upon soil, climate and other conditions.



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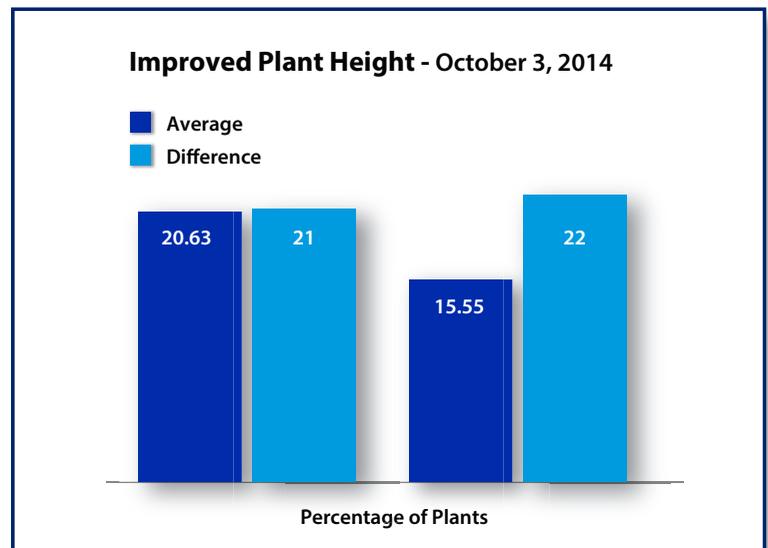
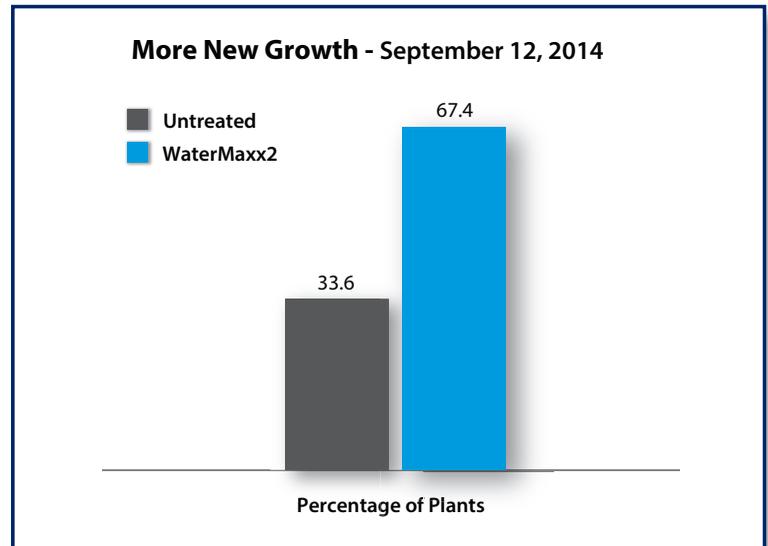
Results (cont/d)

On September 12, 2014, 5 weeks after the initiation of the trial, the number of plants that displayed new growth was measured. There were twice as many plants in the WaterMaxx2 treated portion of the field that displayed new growth compared to the untreated portion of the field.

Observations of plant height on three varieties (Haas, Zutano and Bacon) indicated a height increase of 33% over the untreated and a substantial reduction in variability.

Conclusion

The results of this short trial indicate that WaterMaxx2 improved the distribution of water in the rootzone of this avocado nursery. This improved the growing environment of the plants and allowed them to be less affected by the high EC irrigation water and continue to grow throughout the season.



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