

Demonstration Update

Objective

Manage water movement and distribution to concentrate water within the 12- to 32-inch depth of the root zone of walnuts to maximize water uptake and optimize plant health.

Set Up

In this trial one section of the orchard was treated with WaterMaxx[®]2, with another section designated as the "untreated control." Both sections of the orchard received applications of gypsum and SperSal as part of the grower standard practices to address their ultra pure water issues, and were managed equally in all other respects. Probes installed in both the treated and untreated sections were used to collect moisture data at a variety of soil depths throughout the trial period.

Prior to the start of the trial, the grower was irrigating 6-8 hours per day; standing water remained in the orchard for hours after application. The orchard had a stagnant aroma, algae growing throughout, and noted incidence of phytopthora.

Application

WaterMaxx2 was initially applied at two quarts per acre in June 2013, with subsequent applications of one quart per acre in July and August 2013.

Results

Once the soil problems caused by ultra pure water were alleviated with the gypsum/SperSal combination, the areas treated with WaterMaxx2 responded immediately. The treated areas exhibited better water movement off the surface and improved moisture content at all depths as the season progressed. Improved shoot growth was also visually noted in the treated area when compared to the untreated.

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

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Walnuts: WaterMaxx[®]2 Improves Water Infiltration

Crop/Variety: Chandler Walnuts

Location: Fresno, CA (2013) Investigator: Anthony Duttle, Product Development

Representative, Aquatrols

WaterMaxx2 for Better Water Movement

WaterMaxx2 promotes better water movement and improved moisture content throughout the soil profile.

The decrease in soil moisture at the 4-inch depth and increase in the 8-inch depth in the treated area shows that WaterMaxx2 is moving water off the surface and into the profile. All deeper depths are responsive and ave increased soil moisture content, showing that water is being moved deeper into the profile.

