

# Soil Down To A Science

# metagen<sup>AUS</sup>

## GAZZOLA FARMS BOOSTS PRODUCTIVITY WITH METAGEN'S DIGESTOR IN SOIL HEALTH TRIAL

Gazzola Farms, a family-owned and operated business, has been a key player in Australia's vegetable industry for three generations. Since 1992, the Gazzola family has been cultivating a range of leafy vegetables on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. Committed to sustainable practices, they recently collaborated with Boomaroo Nursery in Lara, Victoria, their trusted seedling supplier, to trial Metagen's biostimulant product, Digestor NP.

The trial, initiated by Boomaroo's Nikola Manchev and Gazzola Farms' Dean Gazzola, aimed to assess if a Digestor NP drench applied in the nursery could enhance plant health, establishment, and overall soil health. The blocks where the iceberg lettuce were planted have also struggled with Sclerotinia, a persistent fungal disease and an ongoing challenge across the vegetable industry. By addressing soil health through biostimulants like Digestor NP, Gazzola Farms is not only reducing losses through the plant establishment phase but also building resilience against soilborne pathogens like Sclerotinia, Fusarium and Pythium.

### Untreated



### Digestor



To carry out the trial, one rack of seedlings per planting was treated with Digestor, then marked and observed in the field alongside untreated control sections.

Both treated and untreated transplants were generally healthy, but Digestor-treated plants showed a dramatic decrease in “dropouts,” or seedlings that failed to establish after planting. In a 150m<sup>2</sup> test area, the untreated section saw 36 dropouts, while the Digestor-treated section had only nine. Extrapolating this data over a full hectare, the untreated section would experience a loss of approximately 2,376 seedlings compared to only 594 in the treated area, leading to a potential increase of \$1,782 in revenue per hectare for iceberg lettuce, which sells for about \$1.00 per head.

Dean Gazzola is encouraged by these initial results and plans to extend Digestor treatments to all iceberg lettuce seedlings. By focusing on soil health, Gazzola Farms is safeguarding the productivity of their land, ensuring high yields and quality across their diverse range of leafy vegetables for generations to come. Long-term users of Digestor also experience enhanced nutrient efficiency, driven by sustained soil health stimulation, which helps reduce input costs and lowers the overall carbon footprint.



#### DIRECTIONS

- Recommended rate: 2-10 L/ha. The rate depends on your crop type and crop health. Apply as advised by your agronomist.
- Apply Digestor NP with water via one of the below application methods.

#### APPLICATION METHODS

- Via irrigation.
- Via liquid/water injection.
- Via boom spray. This should be done in damp conditions or followed by irrigation. Higher water rates (400L/ha+) need to be used in the absence of irrigation to wash the product into the soil or apply during moist conditions. Filters should be 50 mesh or larger.
- For composting, apply 100–200ml per tonne of compost, prior to turning.

*What problems do you encounter in your paddock?*

*We can help.*

*See below for contact details.*

Metagen is an Australian based company producing innovative farmer focused products and services. For more information on how Metagen can take your farm to the next level contact Metagen or your local Total Grower Services agronomist today.

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