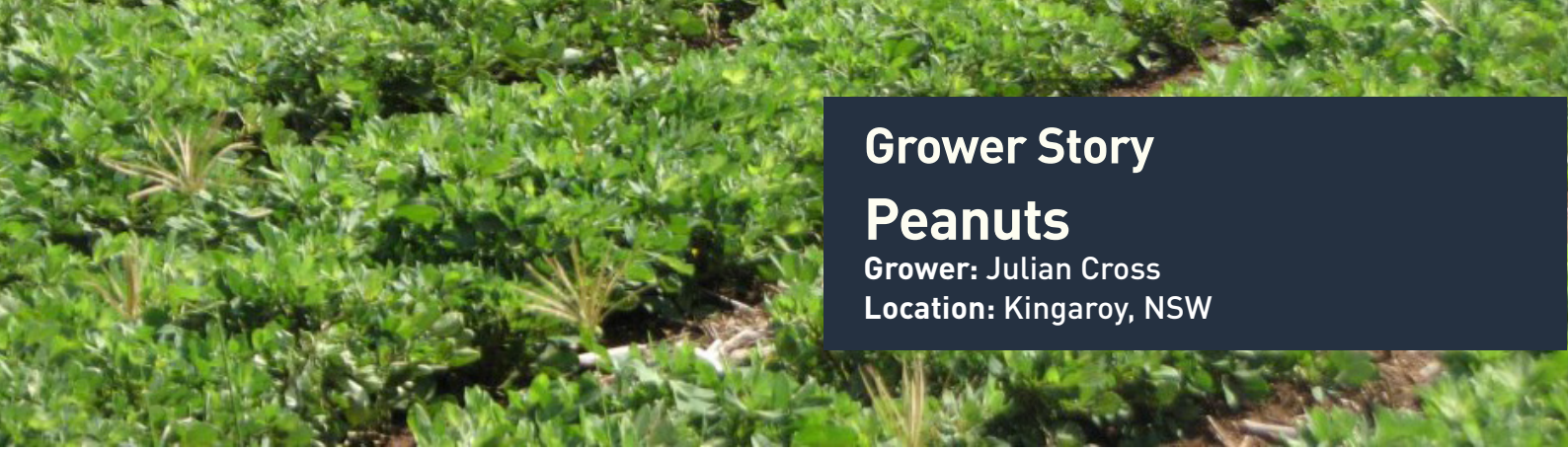


Grower Story

Peanuts

Grower: Julian Cross
Location: Kingaroy, NSW

Peanut Profit

In peanut crops, the profit is all in the "edible jumbos". With peanuts, as with many crops, all the profit is in the quality.

Grading results are everything — with the poorer crops going to peanut butter. So when peanut grower Julian Cross started using soil inoculants a year ago, he had a close eye on the impact on grading quality.

> "These are the best quality peanuts we have produced in 8 years." — Julian Cross

The Correction Phase

Julian's words about "still being in the soil correction phase" highlights an important aspect of the Petrik system. The gains improve each year. There are system improvements in the first year, but the real gains show up after a few applications.

The compounding effect is well understood by Julian and so is the distinction between soil correction and soil maintenance. Each phase requires biological attention, but the rates of application can definitely be reduced once you have built soil humus and improved the structure.

Soil Nutritional Balance

Soil needs both nutritional and biological balance. Julian went on to say, "I used the agronomy expertise of Shane Fitzgerald because of his understanding and integration of both chemistry and biology into crop performance."

Results

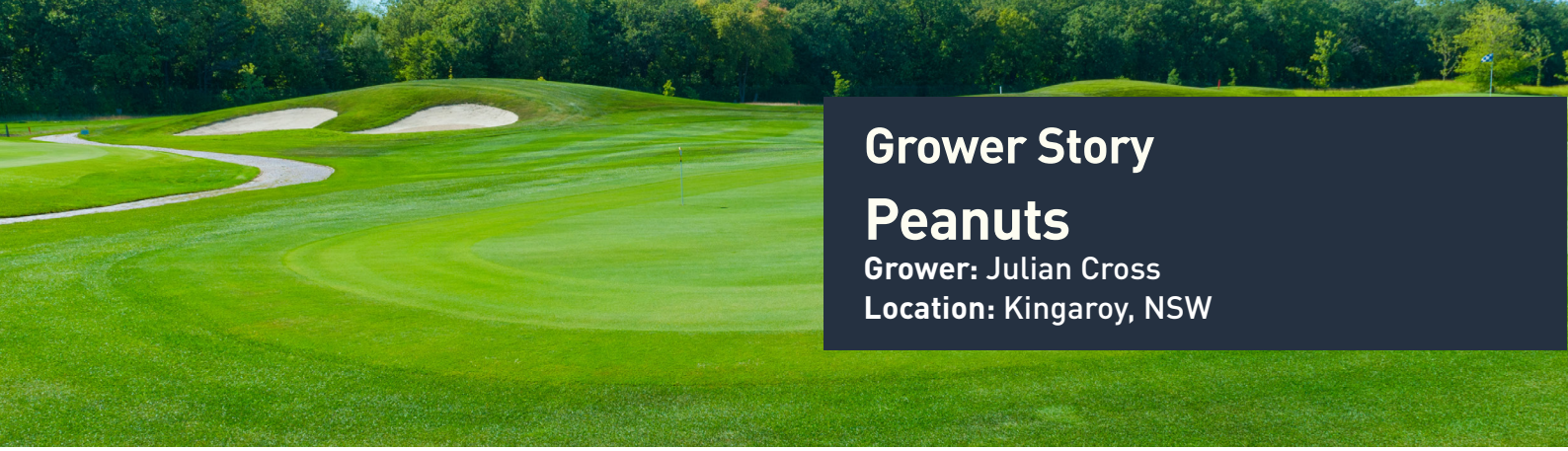
The results were very pleasing. "This year we produced a very high percentage of jumbo peanuts," said Julian, "and this is where we get the best money".

"These are the best quality peanuts we have produced in 8 years." Julian Cross went on to say. "And this is only our first year on the Petrik program. We are still in the soil correction process so we are just at the beginning."

Peanut Crop Amendments

The amendments used in this peanut crop included:

- Petrik Digestor, its activator Green Manure Plus and Headstart — this trio was applied with Flomasta Liquid Injection System directly onto the seed.
- Lime potassium and a mix of micro nutrients including boron based on soil tests, to get the soil balance right.
- DAP was removed from the system right from the first season. Digester works to access the plants phosphorus requirements from the enourmous reserves in these red soils.



Grower Story

Peanuts

Grower: Julian Cross
Location: Kingaroy, NSW

Corn Crop Amendments

Julian treated all his corn soil too. On the corn crops he used the monocot bio-stimulant Evergreen instead of Digester. And no DAP was used on the corn. The corn crop responded well and yields were up across both crops.

Getting Started

Julian initially started addressing the biological needs in his system after attending a Field day at Spring Ridge, in July 2015.

There he spoke with many long term Petrik users, which gave him a solid background on how the soil bio-inoculants progressively build humus and structure over time.

Long Term Mechanism

Benefits show up in the first year, but it is the growers who make multiple applications of our soil building inoculants who reap the most rewards. This is because Petrik soil inoculants work through a different mechanism from those of chemical inputs. This means you can't approach biological inputs with a "chemistry mindset".

We regularly get feedback from growers, from across a wide range of industries, acknowledging this long term mechanism. The paddocks that have been on the system the longest consistently outperform sections on farms that are newly treated, where the profile development is still in its correction phase.

The GRDC Funded Trial

Julian Cross's property is also the site of a GRDC funded trial on Sclerotinia control. Sclerotinia is a major problem in the Kingaroy region.

There are a number of Petrik treatments within this trial. The low spring rainfall last season meant a lower incidence of the disease, however the trial is over a three year period.

This trial is also part of the research we are doing in partnership with Sydney University, with rhizosphere samples from the trial being sequenced to assess adjustments in soil biology. The same sites will continue to be analysed for the next two seasons.