

Vitazyme Research - Strawberries

Research Organization: Hulst Research Farm Services Inc, Hughson, California

Variety: Seascape **Soil Type:** Unknown

Experimental Design: A field divided into eight plots, 1.5m by 7.5m, in a randomized complete block design, was established to investigate the effects of Vitazyme and an untreated control on the yield and quality of strawberries. Four replicates were used.

1. Control 2. Vitazyme

Fertilization: Unknown

Vitazyme treatments: Vitazyme was applied at 1L/ha over the leaves and soil of the appropriate plots on April 29, May 13, and May 27, 2003. A CO₂ - charged backpack sprayer was used with a 1.5m boom and three Tee-Jet 6003 flat fan nozzles, at 30psi and 475L water per ha.

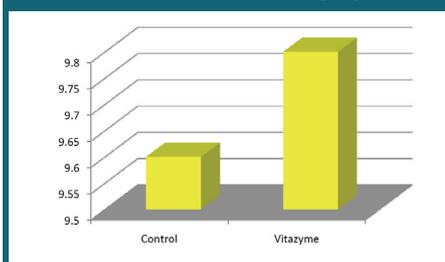
Weather: Weather during this study turned exceptionally hot, effectively stopping fruit set by late May. Four days of 32°C during the third week of May slowed fruit set, and three days around 35°C during the last week of May ended fruit set. Then a 38°C temperature on June 3 was followed by lower temperatures around 26°C for two weeks. This cooler weather initiated flowering and fruit set again so a final berry weight was taken on June 11. According to the researchers, "Since all six berry weight events favoured Vitazyme, a late spring with 'regular' temperatures could have resulted in lower variability across the trial, and samples taken on a weekly basis in such a case should result in greater measurable differences".

Yield and quality, and plant results: Berry weights were taken on May 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and June 13, 2003. All marketable fruit was included in the totals, defined as berries having at least 50% red colour, less all culls (those that were rotted, bird damaged, or insect damaged). At the final harvest on June 13 the degree of brix was determined on ten berries from each plot, using a Bausch and Lomb refractometer. On June 17, plants (with roots) from each plot were harvested and divided into tops and roots. Analysis of Variance was calculated for all data using P = 0.10 as the level of significance.

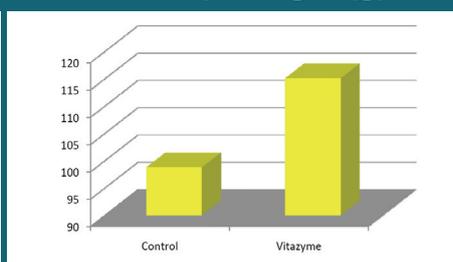
Harvested Berry Weights (grams/plot)

Treatments	May 13	May 16	May 20	May 23	May 27	June 11	Total
Control	900.0	305.0	185.0	66.8	33.0	1,340.0	2,829.8
Vitazyme	1,005.0	380.0	262.0	91.0	65.2	1,480.0	3,283.2
Yield Increase	105.0	75.0	77.0	24.2	32.2	140.0	453.4
% Increase	12%	25%	42%	36%	98%	10%	16%

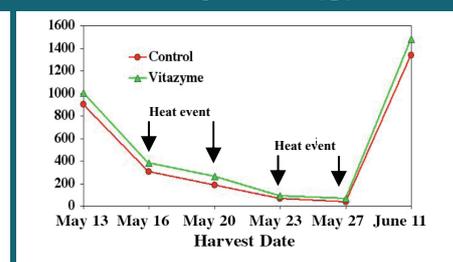
Fruit Brix (%)



Plant Top Weight (g)



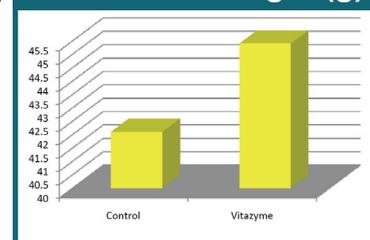
Strawberry Yield (g)



Conclusions: This replicated strawberry trial in California proved that Vitazyme, applied to the leaves and soil, is capable of increasing the growth, yield and quality of strawberries. In particular, the following points are emphasized:

- **Harvested berry weight increased by 16%.**
- **Fruit sugar (brix) was elevated by 0.2 unit, meaning the fruit was slightly sweeter.**
- **Top growth of the plants was increased by 16%.**
- **Root growth of the plants was increased by 8%.**

Plant Root Weight (g)



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