




# **FertiCote**<sup>®</sup>

## Fertiliser

### *in Sweet Potatoes*

*Farm & Location – Matthew Prichard, Cudgen, NSW*

*Crop - Sweetpotato*

*Season – April/May Harvest*

Matthew Prichard and family have a sweet potato farm at Cudgen on the North Coast of New South Wales. Matthew has been looking at ways to obtain more even, continuous growth from his sweet potato plants as well as looking for more uniformity in size of the potatoes.

Using conventional fertilisers he was experiencing a burst of growth at the start of the crop due to the fertiliser releasing rapidly. Matthew wanted to try a controlled release fertiliser blend to give more even growth over time and reduce the leaching losses he was experiencing due to high rainfall events.

Barmac area manager Ron Bollard designed a FertiCote controlled release blend in conjunction with Matthew and Henry Prichard, the sales agronomist from Lindsay Rural Murwillumbah. The blend contained upfront nutrients as well as 2 and 4 month controlled release nitrogen and potassium respectively. A range of trace elements including zinc, manganese and boron were added to the blend.

The blend had an analysis of 12-5-14+TE. Mathew commented, "the FertiCote blend provided slower released nitrogen at the start of the crop producing better quality sweet potatoes, particularly with the Beauregard variety. The high rainfall experienced in the last year saw massive losses of my conventional fertiliser with leaching. Where I used the controlled release fertiliser nutrient losses were reduced, which minimised the need for further side dressing."

Matthew and Henry Prichard



*The farmer's friend for over 50 years*





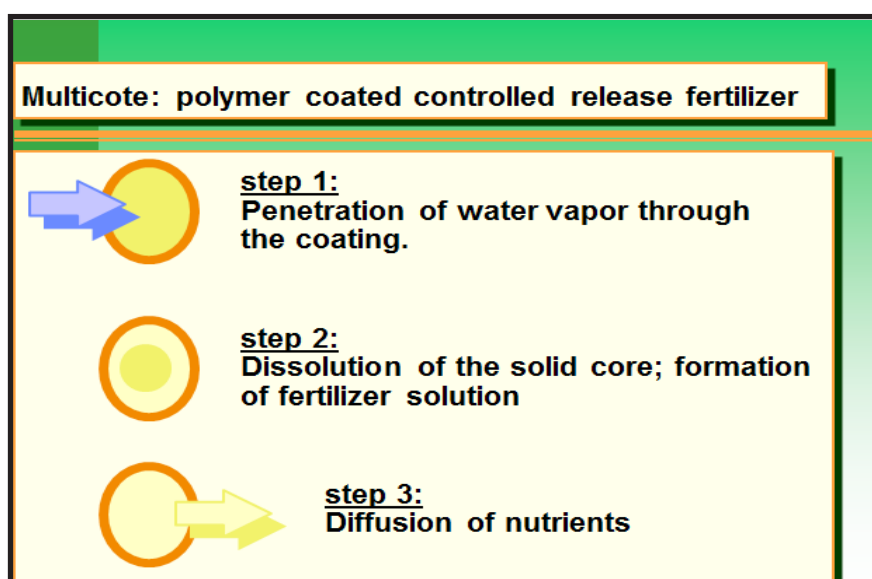
## HOW FERTICOTE WORKS

The Ferticote controlled release blend in this case contained the combination of 2 month and 4 month polymer coated Multicote fertiliser from Haifa in Israel. The standard Multicote range includes 4, 6, 8 and 12 month release options.

The controlled release component consists of layers of polymer coat with soluble fertiliser at the core of the prill. Basically the thicker the polymer coating the slower the release over time. The release is dependent on soil temperature. The higher the temperature the quicker the release.

By releasing the nutrient more evenly over time the growth of the crop is more uniform.

See the chart below regarding the mode of action for nutrient release from the polymer granule when applied to soil.



## ON FARM

Matthew applied the Ferticote blend at 600kg/ha as a basal, prior to planting the runners.

Matthew commented, "After harvesting the sweet potato block treated with the controlled release fertiliser the potatoes were more uniform in size and of high quality enabling a higher price to be achieved at market."

The Prichards along with other farmers are discovering the yield benefits of applying controlled release Ferticote blends from Barmac.

[www.barmac.com.au](http://www.barmac.com.au)



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