

Using compost on Coonawarra's high carbon soil

Location: 15km north of Penola, South Australia

Objectives:

- Assess the impact compost has on the growth and productivity of beans.
- Assess the ameliorating properties of different rates of compost in a high carbon Coonawarra soil.

Background:

In a combined effort, Elders Hamilton and Van Schaik's Bio Gro have initiated a trial in south-western Victoria to study the impact compost has on canola growth and production.

This trial studies the plant response of beans grown in black loamy soil in the Coonawarra when different rates of compost are applied prior to sowing. This paddock has rocks present and was reeffinated 2 years prior to compost application.

Crop Type: Beans

Soil Type: Black clay loam

Start date: 20/05/2025

End date: 31/12/2025

Treatments:

- Control – No compost applied
- AgriGro – Spread at 5t/ha
- AgriGro – Spread at 10t/ha
- AgriGro – Spread at 15t/ha

AgriGro is a high-quality base compost designed for broad agricultural use.

Trial Measurements:

- Establishment rate – Assessed once, 2-4 weeks post germination.
- Biomass and phenology – Monitored 2-3 times during the growing season.
- Grain yield – Measured at harvest