Fibrophos; pre-planting incorporation of chicken based fertilizer

Objective
Assess the use and benefits of recycled chicken waste product, Fibrophos, as a phosphate source for pre-planting ground application in bush cider orchards.

Duration of trial 3 years

Site H P Bulmer’s Farm at Penrhos, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.

Contact Alan Williams, farm manager. Mobile 0976 713 882

Soil
Variable. E side is Bromyard, deep well drained fine silty red soil. W side, mostly Conway series, deep, stony, fine silty, clayey soils. Phosphate in trial area varies between index 0 - 1. Cider orchard planted into fallow in March 1997

Treatments
Soil amendments to be made pre-planting in February 1997.

1] Fibrophos. Granulated formulation of standard rate N0 : P24 : K15
2] Other phosphate source.
Spread at 5cwt/acre and incorporated.

Records
Growth of 20 trees x replicate 2 blocks per treatment were recorded:-
1] Tree girth, height, number of shoots at planting.
2] Tree girth, height, number of shoots at end of each season.
3] Soil test pre-amendment.

Results end of Year 1 [1997]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phosphate Source</th>
<th>No. Of Laterals</th>
<th>Leader Extension</th>
<th>Girth At End Of Year</th>
<th>Girth Increment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthophos</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>52.0</td>
<td>7.35</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrophos</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>7.60</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: All measurements in cm.

Trees in areas where soil was amended with Fibrophos prior to planting have grown slightly but not significantly more in their first year than those which received standard orthophosphate incorporation.