



WHY FERTIGATION MAKES SENSE IN BROADACRE AGRICULTURE.

with Don May, Guest Writer for Ferti-Ject.

Fertigation is a quickly becoming the application method of choice for smarter operators in the Broadacre Agricultural Sector.

In this article we explore some of the reasons this is the case in Broadacre Agriculture with Global Irrigation Technology Guru, Don May.

It's the perfect fit for precision agriculture.

Fertigation is all about applying only the required amount of fertilizer or crop protection products at exactly the right times during the optimum growing season for the crop.

"That's why fertigation is a sound investment for improving yields and ensuring a healthier crop for the entire season".

It will reduce the amount of fertilizer and chemical required.

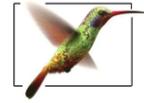
Fertigation allows you to apply less product with no tangible impact on the yields. This is because the product can be applied more accurately and completely across the irrigated area.

It's a very versatile and flexible application method.

Fertigation systems are readily available for use a range of irrigation systems and a can be used with a wide variety of crops, sites, product, and applications.

Improved effectiveness of applied product.

It's a fact that many fertiliser and crop protection products have been field tested and proven to be more effective when applied through irrigation systems.



Simple and easy to calibrate.

With most built for purpose fertigation systems, you won't need an engineering degree or an hourly rate technician to set up and operate the fertigation system. Mostly the calibration of the system is very easy, they are very accurate, with the addition of Smart Control Panels they are very intuitive.



Fertigation on a Lateral Move System

It's better for the environment.

Because the precise application of chemicals and fertilizers can provide what your crop needs while reducing the bulk of product to be applied, there is less of an environmental impact. Because the diluted product is applied directly to the plant there is less chance of drift or run off ensuring that there are containment options to provide even further assurance of environmental safety.

Saves on fuel and labour costs.

Because the addition of fertigation unit to mechanised or fixed irrigation system allows for products to be applied on demand, there is no requirement for tractor based or aerial application methods to be deployed, reducing fuel and labour costs.

It gives a more uniform coverage.

With any fertigation system, you will get more complete and uniform coverage across your entire irrigated area than is possible with other methods of application.

"Because there is no machinery operator involved, there are simply no skipped rows and no hot spots from double applications, the process is actually really simple, if it's getting water, it's getting fertilizer".

It's a safer method.

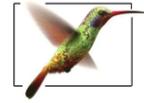
With modern logistics the handling of bulk chemicals is greatly reduced when used with a fertigation system, ensuring that operator exposure to them is minimized greatly, and diminishing the chance for spillage.

Less down time, no more waiting for contractors.

Fertigation systems allow you to apply product as your crops require it, there is no more waiting for the spreading contractor or the spray plane to be available, and its less expensive.

"Fertigation allows you to simply apply what your crop needs, when it needs it and do it all at a lower cost per hectare".

Another benefit over conventional tractor based or aerial based applications, there is no need to shut off your pivot irrigation system and stop scheduled watering in order to apply product.



You will see real cost savings year after year.

With a fertigation system the initial capital outlay is just a one-time investment, it pays backs quickly, you will see real cost savings in product, labour and other costs in year one.

“With every application, in every irrigated field, during every season you will be saving money and seeing better returns. A fertigation system is one of the wisest investments in today modern farming world”.



Fertigation on a Fixed Centre Pivot

Fertigation is somewhat Future proof.

The pace at which the development of more effective and environmentally sound fertiliser and crop protection products in is very fast.

“It’s for these reasons the irrigation-based application of these newer forms of product will soon become the gold standard in irrigated agriculture”.

Fertigation offers an effective, cost efficient and environmentally friendly way to deliver the newer formulations of the products.

Fertigation can be highly automated.

Specifically, most built for purpose fertigation system can be highly integrated into not only local control and management systems, but can be connected to the cloud and Internet of Things to be a part of advanced management platforms.

In summary.

If you are an operator within the Broadacre Agriculture sector with irrigated areas, and are using mechanised or fixed irrigation systems, not having fertigation systems is costing you money.

“With a built for purpose fertigation system, you will not only have a quick reduction in input costs, including fertiliser and crop protection products, labour and fuel costs, but a real increase in the yield of your crop being irrigated”.

It's also much more environmentally responsible, as a well-designed irrigation system will deliver almost all the product right to the plant, reducing run off and leaching through over application.

There is also no soil compaction as is the case with tractor-based application, and no chance of drift as is the case with aerial based applications, and no additional fuel burn as it the case with both these methods.

In short, built for purpose fertigation systems stack up as a smart investment for irrigated Broadacre Agriculture.

Don May is a guest writer of articles for Ferti-Ject and is not otherwise affiliated.