



Restore Your Soil

TESTIMONIAL

Bob Wilt, Western AgLands

I am a regenerative-organic berry grower and have a consulting and fertilizer sales company Western Aglands. Before I recommend products as a consultant, I will use them on my own farm first. This spring I started using the MetaGrow products to see if they would work.

Because of the abnormal wet spring our Black Raspberry field developed a phytophthora infection. Rather than using fungicides to correct the problem, I chose to use a program of balanced nutrition, including substantial calcium and micronutrients, combined with soil biology. Dave Olson of Sustainable Growing Solutions helped me design a biological fertility program to heal the plantings.

These plantings are five and eleven years old. Generally, most black raspberry plantings are pulled out after three or four years of production because of disease issues. Conventional growers usually consider phytophthora a death sentence for a crop. This year's yield was about 1,000 pounds per acre, when usually we expect as much as 5,000 pounds. After harvest there were areas of dead plants and it looked like we would lose the whole field. Since harvest I have made weekly applications of the integrated MetaGrow biology and fertility program.

Total fertilizer for the season is: 13.5 lbs. per acre of N, 4.2 lbs. per acre of P, 5 lbs. per acre of K, 9.5 lbs. per acre of Ca, and 7.5 lbs. per acre of a mix of 78 micro minerals.

As of mid-September, the plantation has revived to where it looks like it has the vigor to support a full crop next year.



Black raspberry in September, during recovery from Phytophthora

In another crop, I was also pleased with the performance of MetaGrow. A new planting of blackberry had a very vigorous start. This spring (June 10, 2023) I planted 50 acres of 1.5" X 1.5" Blackberry plugs. Using the same fertility program and MetaGrow biology, 90 days later I have plants with as many as 21 canes 30 inches to 8 feet long. At this rate there will be a "baby crop" that will pay for the cost of the plants and part of the trellising. Most growers do not expect any crop until the second year.

It has been my experience over the last 22 years that growing organic with a regenerative mindset does not have to take a back seat to conventional when it comes to yield, insect and disease control, and quality.

I have decided to include MetaGrow products in my consulting recommendations next year.

Bob Wilt
Oregon Berry Grower
Western Aglands consultant



First-year Blackberry planting, showing exceptional vigor.

