

# OziVerm in Greenhouse Cucumbers

**Joe Allam – Prestons NSW - Spring 2001**

There was no control in this study, as earlier trials conducted in the Summer and Winter crops had convinced Joe of the positive benefits that OziVerm was having on his crop.

One of the outcomes of the earlier work was the identification of application rates suitable for greenhouse use.

As a result of the earlier work, OziVerm was added to both the seedling mixture (at 10% by volume) for treatment #1, and to the growing bags (at 200gm per 10 litre bag) for treatment #2, for the crop planted in the Spring of 2001.

The growing media in 10 litre bags (treatment #2) consisted of a bark based mulch which was two seasons old, and was becoming unresponsive and beginning to lose moisture retention characteristics. Because the bags were already filled, OziVerm was mixed into the top of the bags by hand.

## Observations

Joe has been growing Cucumbers for 15 years and says that OziVerm has created the first real difference in his crop, and is producing the best results he has seen.

There have been a number of positive impacts that Joe has observed.

- **More uniform and stronger plants.**
- **Increased flowering and fruit set.**
- **Less fertilizers required.**
- **Faster crop development.**
- **Longer production cycle.**
- **Better quality fruit.**



**Above** - Adelle cucumbers 6 days after planting out.

**Right** - 24 days after planting out.



Soilsmart products and technical services are specifically designed to help manage one of the most complex and diverse eco-systems on earth - the interface between the soil and the plants we grow.

Soilsmart products will help you to build a strong and balanced biological soil eco-system, maintain aerobic soil conditions and develop a disease suppressive environment in the root zone.

### Biological Diversity

The plants we rely on to grow quality crops, turf surfaces and landscapes all evolved in the presence of, and rely on, a strong and symbiotic relationship with beneficial soil organisms which play a significant role in regulating the health of the entire plant/soil eco-system.

The key to success however is diversity - nature is built on it — consequently we have developed a range of products and programs that have a broad bio-diversity and offer long term benefit. They are also based around indigenous Australian biological species which are suited to our climatic and soil conditions.

Even small changes to your existing programs can improve biology and quickly translate into improved aerobic soil conditions and healthier and more resilient plants. These advances also result in more extensive and vigorous root systems and an increase in water use efficiency. Maintaining bio-diversity and balance also encourages the conversion and retention of minerals, increasing fertilizer efficiency and minimising the need for repeated applications.

Soilsmart products and programs allow you to stay ahead of pests and disease and offer a truly preventative approach to soil and plant health by:

- Building Organic Carbon reserves in your soil.
- Establishing a natural defensive network against disease and pests.
- Strengthening plant health and stress tolerance.
- Increasing fertilizer efficiency.
- Sustaining soil Oxygen levels.
- Reducing costs and improving risk management.

The science that enables us to measure and manipulate the soils' biological properties has advanced rapidly in the past decade, bringing about a much better understanding of how we can influence this very complex bio-system to our advantage. Soilsmart have maintained an association with and are accredited with organisations like The Soil Foodweb Institute USA, who are at the forefront of research and technology development in this important area of environmental management.