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SOIL MOISTURE PROBE – SUMMER SUMMARY

GORAE WEST, VICTORIA TRIAL SITE

Summary supplied by Integrated Irrigation & thanks to Enviro Pro Soil Moisture Probes

- there is very little moisture difference between treatment and control at 10cm at any time, they are behaving for all intents and purposes exactly the same.
- Plant water use appears higher in the treatment during late spring early summer with lower soil moisture levels seen earlier at depth (60-80cm area)
- Rainfall approx 28mm during January penetrated to successively deeper depths with each rainfall event quickly at the time of each rainfall event on the control probe. The rainfall events did not show this quick penetration to successively deeper levels with each rainfall event on the treatment probe. Rather, a slower infiltration of water was seen, likely with better utilisation of water in the upper profile during January for anything that grows at this time of year.
- Net result of infiltration to depth below 50cm by end February is more water available (higher soil moisture levels) in the treatment compared to the control. Water availability in the upper profile remains relatively the same.
- Some water drained below 80cm in the control during February evidenced by the spike seen at 80cm, this did not happen in the treatment.

Crop Results summary by Dion Borg @ Glenelg CMA (Agronomist)

The results of our latest harvest (Red wheat), that was harvested in late December 2019 have again shown an increase in productivity (grain yield and biomass), when comparing treatments but not as significant as year one.

The 5t/ha treatment showed a 5% increase with the 10t/ha indicating a 7% increase over the control. Good results in terms of yield gains over time but the economics still need to be worked out.



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