

Trichoderma hamatum (Phytoguard®) —a natural enemy of *Phytophthora*.



- Phytophthora root rot is caused by a fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) which spreads very quickly in soil and can rapidly destroy a plants entire root system.
- *Trichoderma* is a fungus that can attack and parasitise other fungi and is natural enemy of *Phytophthora*.
- There are many types of *Trichoderma*, with different capabilities, growers need one that is adapted to their crop, in their environment, and is known to attack the target disease . Many *Trichoderma* races were tested to develop PHYTOGUARD®.
- *Trichoderma hamatum* AVC1 & AVA2 were able to inhibit *P. cinnamomi* enough to allow increased root growth (Fig 2), and less of those new roots suffered infection (Fig 3). AVC1 & AVA2 are combined in PHYTOGUARD®.



Fig 1: Healthy new avocado roots (white) and diseased new avocado roots (brown). Phytoguard® reduces this problem.

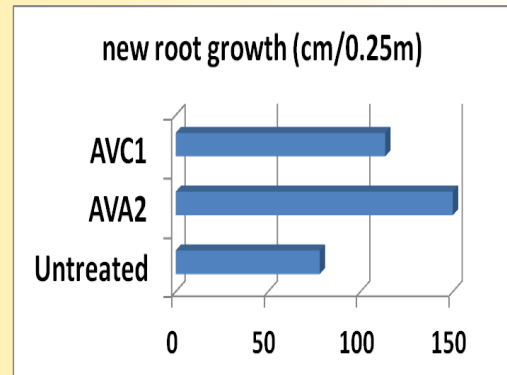


Fig 2: Difference in growth of avocado roots treated *T. hamatum* AVC1 or AVA2 to untreated roots.

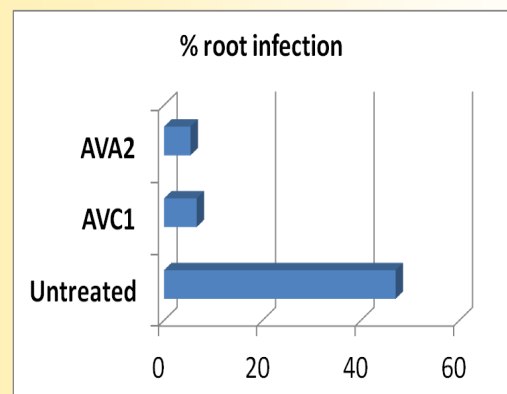


Fig 3: The decrease in infection of avocado roots treated with *T. hamatum* AVA2 or *T. hamatum* AVC1 (lsd0.05 = 16.3).

Dr Dean Metcalf is a scientist who has studied how to use *Trichoderma* to control many crop diseases since 1992 and has developed a number of successful biological control agents based on solid scientific evaluation.

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