

MYCORRHIZAE AND TREE HEALTH:

Background:

80% of vascular plants have a symbiotic relationship with Mycorrhizae, a beneficial as opposed to an antagonistic fungus, like Ganoderma - red brown flying saucer shaped fungus seen on dying trees. The Mycorrhizae starts to attach to existing roots and then grows Mycorrhizae roots and colonises more of the root zone over time. The plant shares about 20% of its sugars with the beneficial fungus and in return gets up to 800 % increase in fine root development. The Mycorrhizae also inoculates the tree against soil borne pathogens and generally improves vigour health and ability of the tree to fight insect attack naturally. The treatment is once-off for life, provided the Mycorrhizae is not killed with a fungicidal application or drought.

White Pine:

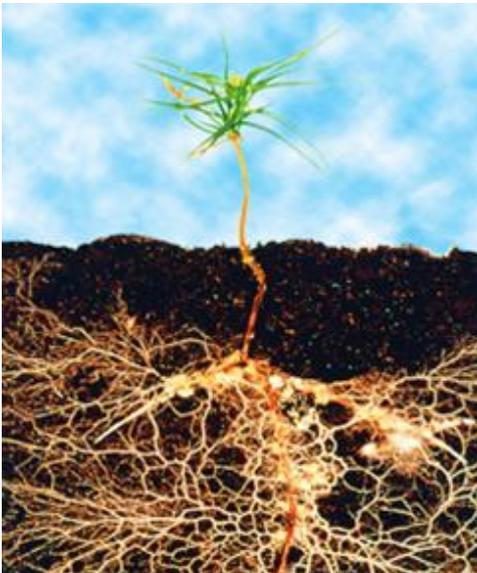
In photograph 1:

Two seeds are planted and growing the right hand plant was inoculated. At that early stage the rapid root and needle development is already noticeable.

Photo 1:



Photo 2:



Another example of increase in root zone development using a natural solution Mycorrhizae.

Root zone increase in Spruce saplings:

The sapling on the left hand side was treated, the sapling on the right was the control (Not untreated).



Pea plants:



Control LHS.



RHS treated plant after two weeks.

The two trees were left of frame, were inoculated with Mycorrhizae. The tree on the right was not. Despite no modern arboriculture practices being employed by the University, like a mulched competition free zone, the trees still staked after 7 years for no scientific reason, irrigation and deliberate fertilization, the two treated trees are thriving. The smaller is also unhealthy and has insect issues.



Red Karee Trees *Sersea pendulina*
Planted at the Potchefstroom University. All three planted in 2007.



Today with strides in scientific discovery it is more than ever absolutely imperative to do all we can to improve the health of our trees and Mycorrhizae is beyond doubt the cornerstone of long term tree health.

I offer a service where your trees, both indigenous and exotic are inoculated with a cocktail of South African Mycorrhizae. These spores have been screened for pathogenic strains and are guaranteed free. I also apply root hormones, Bio-stimulants and a foliar feed to boost all the systems within the tree.

Should you have any further question please contact me to discuss any issues relating to your trees.

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