

2026 Field Trial

Plant Type: Almond Trees, Turlock, Ca.

Summary: Over 14-16 February 2026, over 1,600 almond trees were planted in an orchard in Turlock. Two forms of the SAI soil amendment were blended, and tossed onto the bottom of the planting. About 1550 trees received the standard SAI soil amendment (biochar, plant compost, manure compost, beneficial bacteria, mycorrhizae fungi (all certified organic), and a water retention ingredient). A blend was made, substituting a local compost for the composts we've worked with for over three years. This farmer has worked with us for 3 years, and did not feel the need to plant "control trees"; all of his new plantings in 2026 received one or the other blend of the SAI soil amendment.

Trees planted 14-16 February 2026. Photos taken 27 April 2026.



Photo 1 (L): Almond tree planted substituting the local compost.

Photo 2 (C): Almond tree planted using the "tried and true" SAI blend.

Both trees started with bare roots, and bare (i.e. no leaves or branches) trunks around 100cm tall. Both trees received identical inputs. This demonstrates the rate of growth in 9 weeks. The farmer uses a direct observation that "if the trees reach his shoulder in height by July 4th, they'll do fine". The almond trees planted with the standard SAI blend will likely surpass this growth target by early May, possibly 2 months earlier than his historical target. With a thicker trunk, and possibly 4-6x more leaves, the trees treated with the standard SAI soil amendment are likely to further extend this difference in growth rate.

For more information, contact John Novitsky, CEO, jnovitsky@sbcglobal.net, (650)387-3172.