

Calcium and silicate an ideal partnership

CALCIUM and silicon tend to work hand-in-hand, with both elements being important cell wall materials that add both strength and stability to plants.

In plant growth, calcium and silicate serve to mobilise other essential elements into the plant more readily.

"Mineral Mulch's Calcium Silicate not only contains a high percentage of water-soluble silicon, but also contains plant available calcium," a company spokesman said.

"Within the enzyme system of the plant, Calcium is critical to the manufacture of protein.

"In addition, due to its unique ionic radius and its two-plus charge, calcium has a very high flocculation power and pulls clay particles together in the soil.

"Flocculation is important because water, oxygen and plant roots move mostly in the large pores between aggregates.

"If we get the calcium balance right, it is possible fertility will return to worn



Simon Douglas from Mineral Mulch soil testing at Gatton.

out and tired soils."

Despite its many proven benefits in both soils and plants, silicon has not yet been considered an essential element, but rather a beneficial element.

"This is mainly due to the inability of isolating this element in laboratory trials," the spokesman said.

"Silicon, whether in its available form or other non-available forms, can not only be found in soils, but also in water and the atmosphere like dust.

"It is also worth noting that in the periodic table, silicon is surrounded by boron, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phos-

phorus and sulphur that are all classed as essential elements for both plant growth and health.

"The importance of silicon to plant growth has been widely recognised since the 1970s.

"Some scientific data dates back to the 1900s showing yield responses, insect and disease resistance, mitigation of sodium uptake and its associated stresses.

"It also helps increase the uptake of other plant nutrients, and the binding and mitigation of heavy metal stresses."

■ Visit: www.mineralmulch.com

Supporting women to be successful

SITUATED within Sydney University, The Women's College is a globally connected, secular, residential community of female scholars, the first to be established in Australia in 1892.

The Women's College offers a number of scholarships for residential students awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need to support students coming from regional and rural areas including some with potential for internships.

Scholarships are also available to students, for example, who have shown leadership and co-curricular talent.

Other scholarships are offered for regional and rural students with academic merit intending to study disciplines including Medicine, Medical Science with a focus on research, music performance, Agricultural Science or Science.

There are also scholarships for indigenous and Torres Strait Islander students, country NSW students who



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have attended a local school as a day student, government school students, country students with an education disadvantage due to distance and students from low SES schools/areas applying for The University of Sydney E12 scholarships.

"These scholarships have provided academic and co-curricular opportunities to many young rural and regional women who would not otherwise be able to attend the college," a college spokesperson said.

"The college's academic and tutorial assistance, mentoring and leadership programs as well as pastoral

care, provide support and guidance for women in a community to assist them achieve their career potential, allowing them to focus on their studies reducing financial stress.

"This close network of women keeps them connected beyond university."

The Women's College accepts students from The University of Sydney, UTS, UNSW, The University of Notre Dame Australia, ACU and Macquarie University.

Scholarships for the 2022 academic year close on Tuesday, October 5, at 5pm.

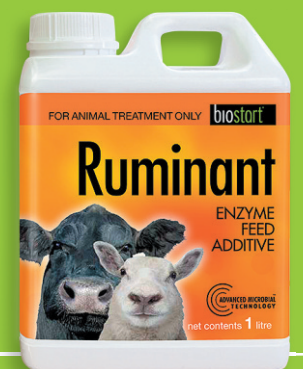
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