

## EcoBac Trial in Avocado at the University of California at Riverside

**Product:** EcoBac  
**Crop:** Avocado

**Trial setting:** Research nursery  
**Location:** UC Riverside, California

### Objective

Control of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in Avocado plants at the nursery stage.

The fungi *Phytophthora* causes great economic damage to avocado plantations, particularly in soils where water retention occurs. Many reports indicate that chemical fungicides have become less effective due to the development of pathogen resistance. Biological control with antagonistic microorganisms to directly or indirectly control target pests is postulated as a solution. Biological control is safer for humans and the environment, and allows production of organic crops.

### Method of product application and results

A nursery trial was carried out by Dr. John Menge at the University of California Riverside. Dr. Menge is a very well known scientist who has been working for many years in control of *Phytophthora* in avocados.

As part of a screening program, Dr. Menge inoculated avocado plants grown in pots with *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Some of the plants were treated with ECOBAC. After a short period of time all plants infected with the pathogen died, whereas all of the infected plants that were treated with ECOBAC survived. Dr. Menge stated that this is the most effective biocontrol of *Phytophthora* he has ever seen.

Photograph 1.  
All three plants were infected with *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, the two plants on the right were treated with ECOBAC.

