

A lysimeter experiment and field trial to determine options for the beneficial reuse of wastewater from Duvauchelle and Akaroa, Banks Peninsula (November 2014 – June 2017)



Maria Jesus Gutierrez-Gines, Juergen Esperschuetz, Cameron McIntyre, Jacqui Horswell, Henry Chau, Minakshi Mishra, Salomeh Alikhani

brett.robinson@canterbury.ac.nz

www.kiwiscience.com

An aerial photograph of a large, irregularly shaped reservoir with turquoise water. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and brownish, eroded soil. Two red stars are placed on the image to indicate soil sampling locations. One star is at the northern end of the reservoir, and the other is on the eastern shore, south of the reservoir's main body.

Barry soil (silt loam) ★

★ Pawson silt loam



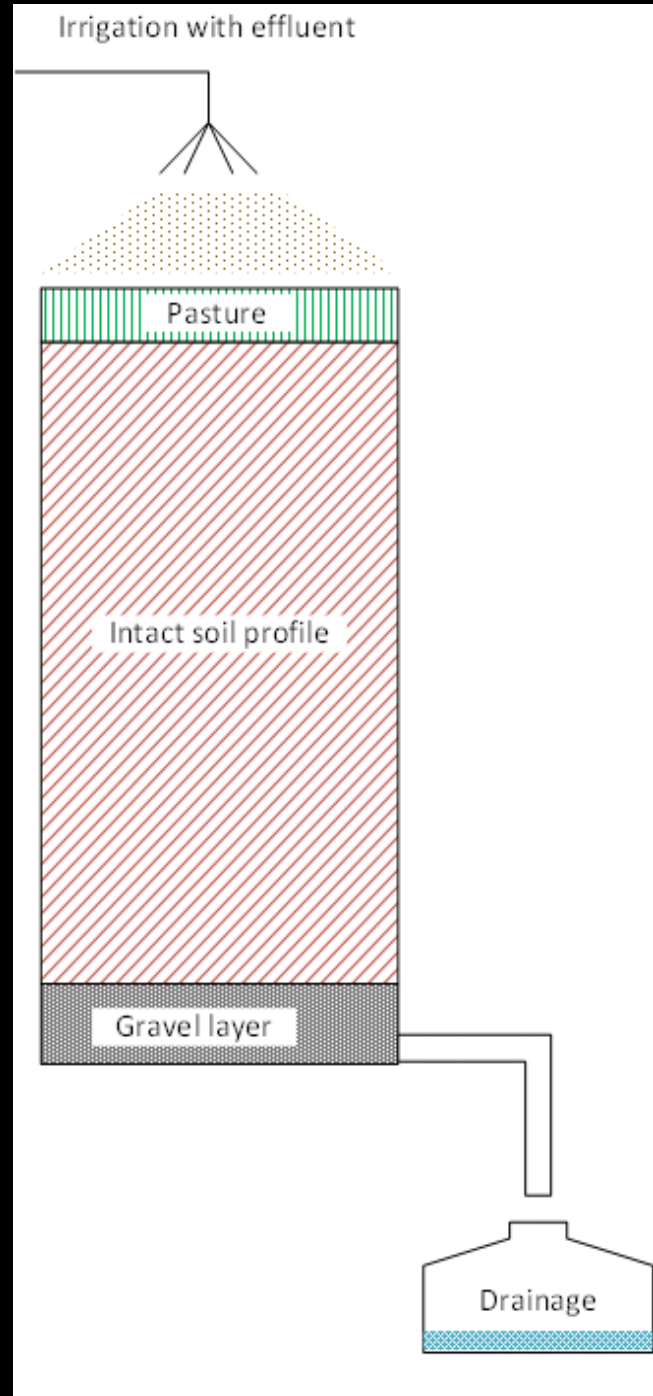
2

1

3

3

2









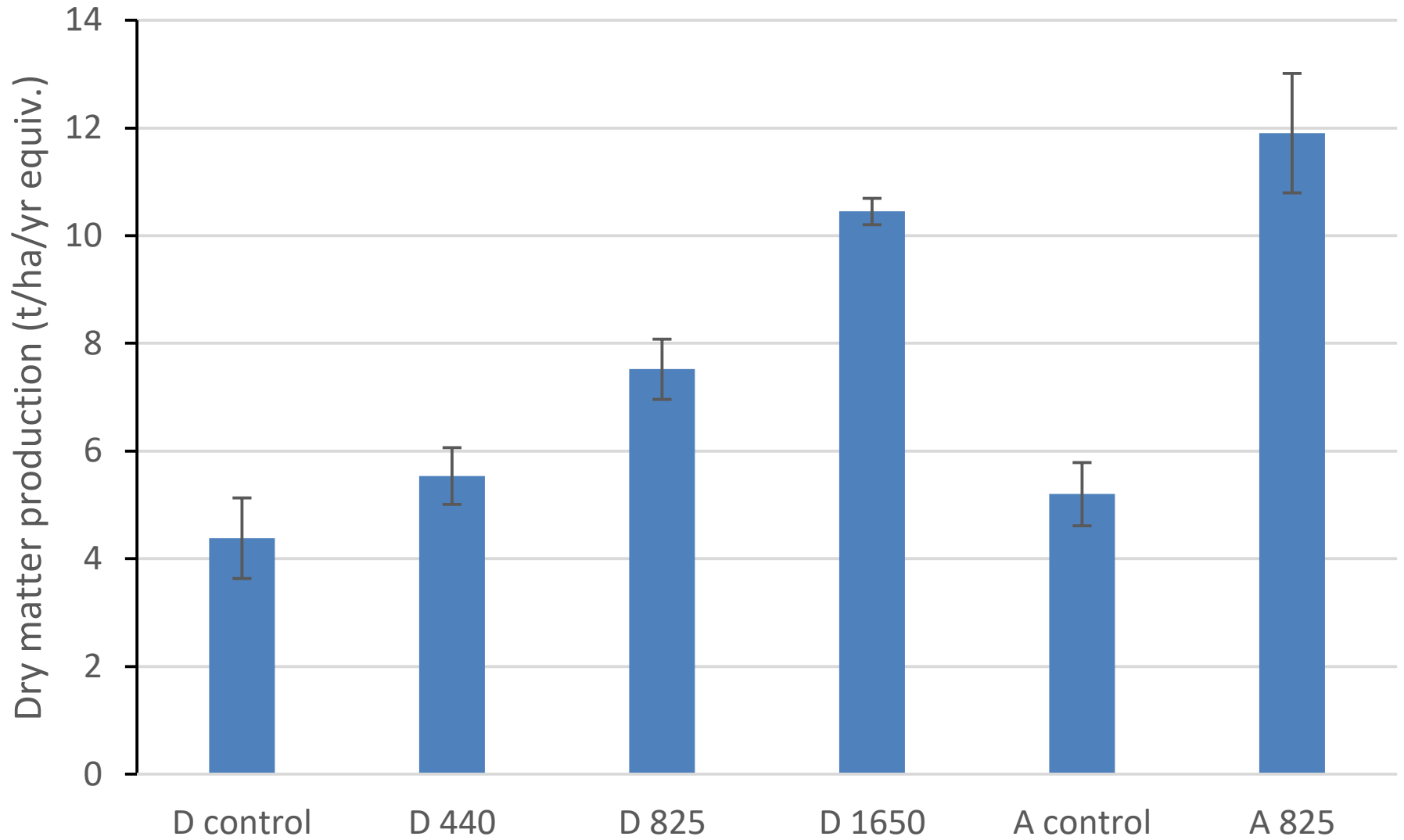
Control (no irrigation)

440 mm/yr

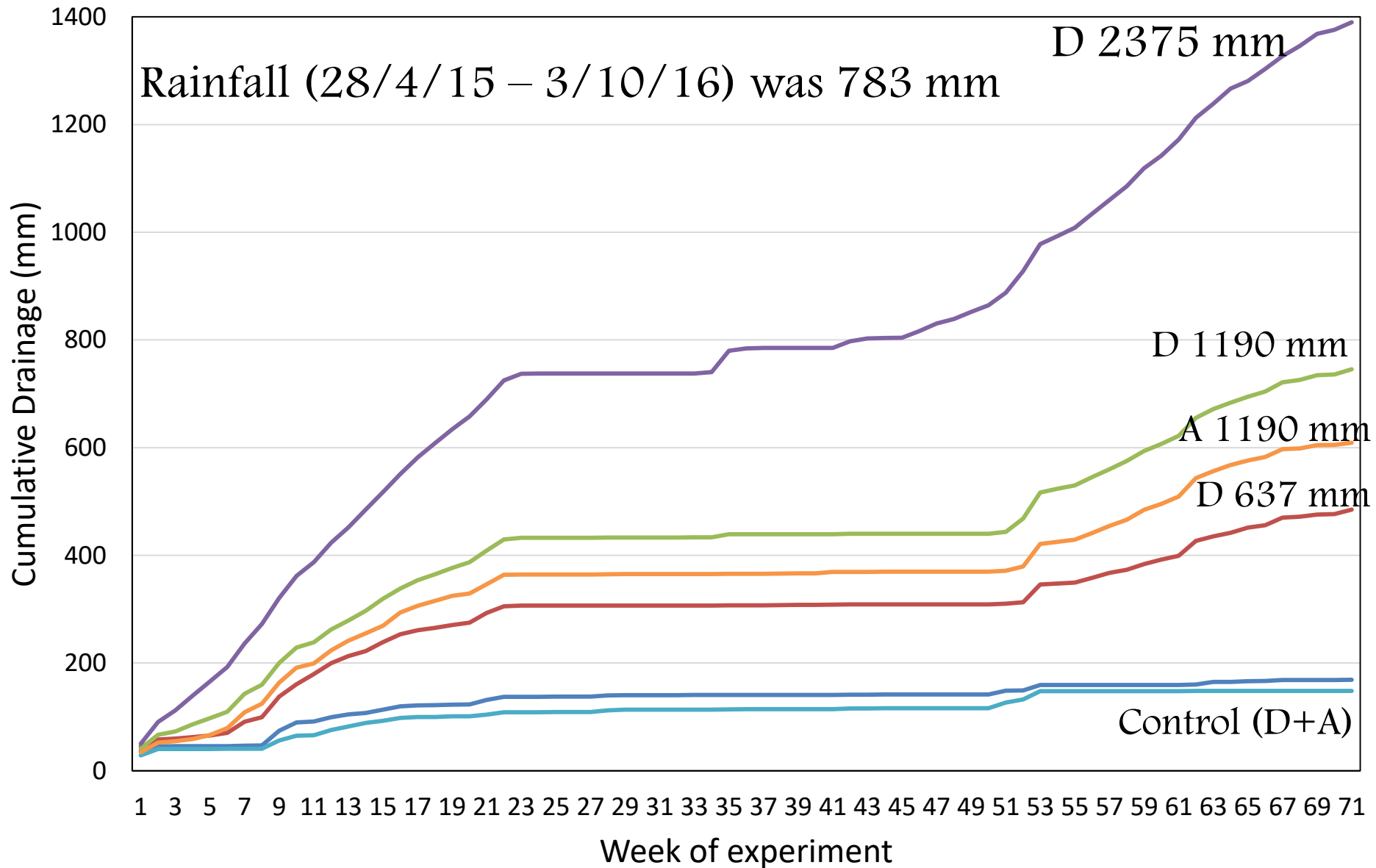
825 mm/yr

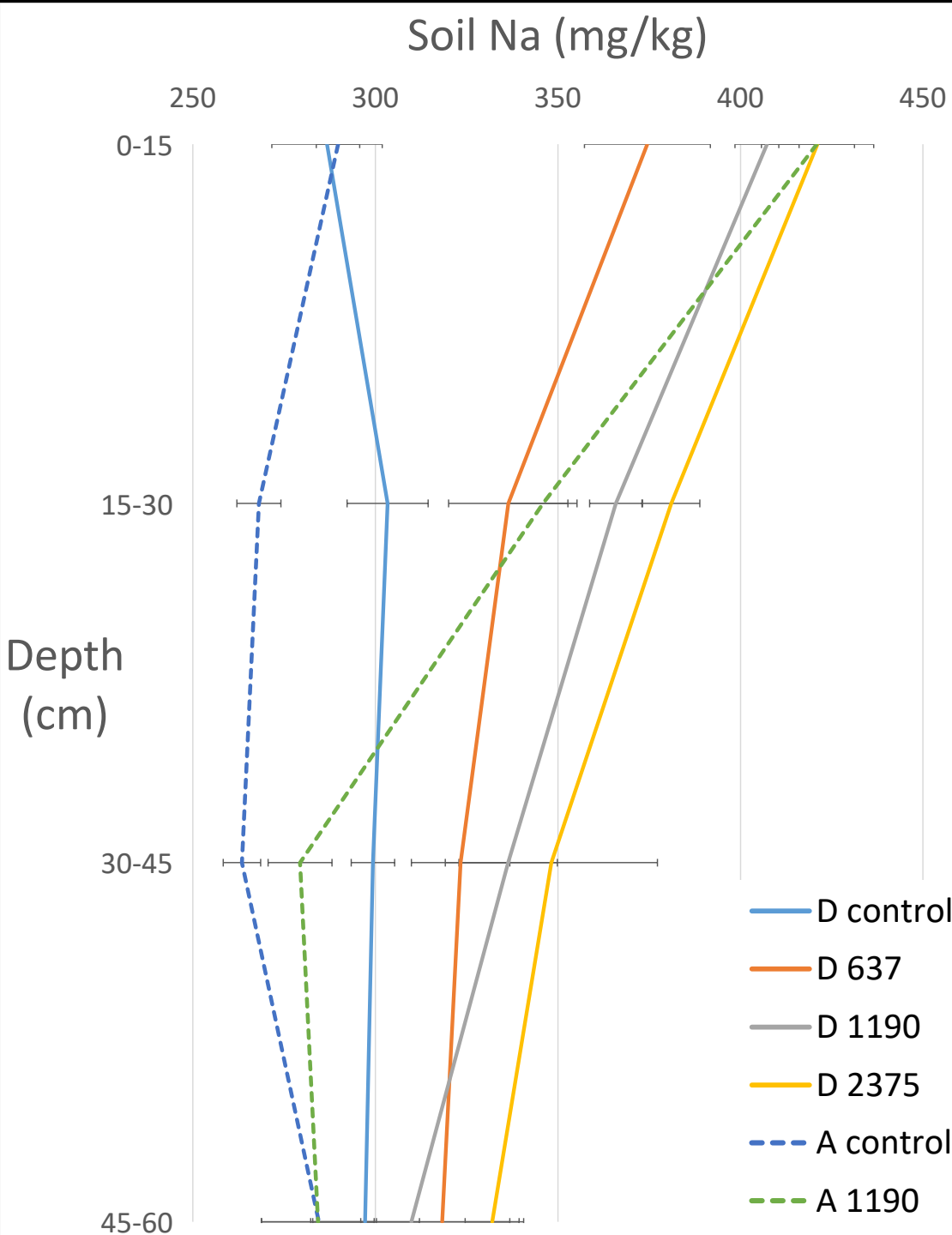
1650 mm/yr

Wastewater accelerates pasture growth



All soils drained freely with no ponding





Increased Na
but no
excessive
accumulation

Na in irrigation water
= 63 mg/L

No significant nitrate leaching

- Total N in treated wastewater ca. 30 mg/L
- Average nitrate-N concentration in drainage <0.3 mg/L
- Total nitrate-N leached <1 kg/ha/yr in all treatments

How does it compare grazed pasture?



- Effluent irrigated cut & carry N leaching: $< 1 \text{ kg/ha/yr}$
- Grazed pasture leaches $40 - 80 \text{ kg/ha/yr}$ (Burkett, 2013)
- Effluent $< 150 \text{ mg Cd/kg P}$
- Superphosphate $< 280 \text{ mg Cd/ kg P}$
- Grazing: soil disturbance through trampling.
- Many more pathogens in bovine faeces than treated effluent





Value

Irrigation of 500 mm/ha/yr



Element	Mass (kg/ha/yr)
N	120
P	30
K	70
S	55
Ca	140
Mg	60
Zn	0.28
Cu	0.035
Cd	<0.005



Value

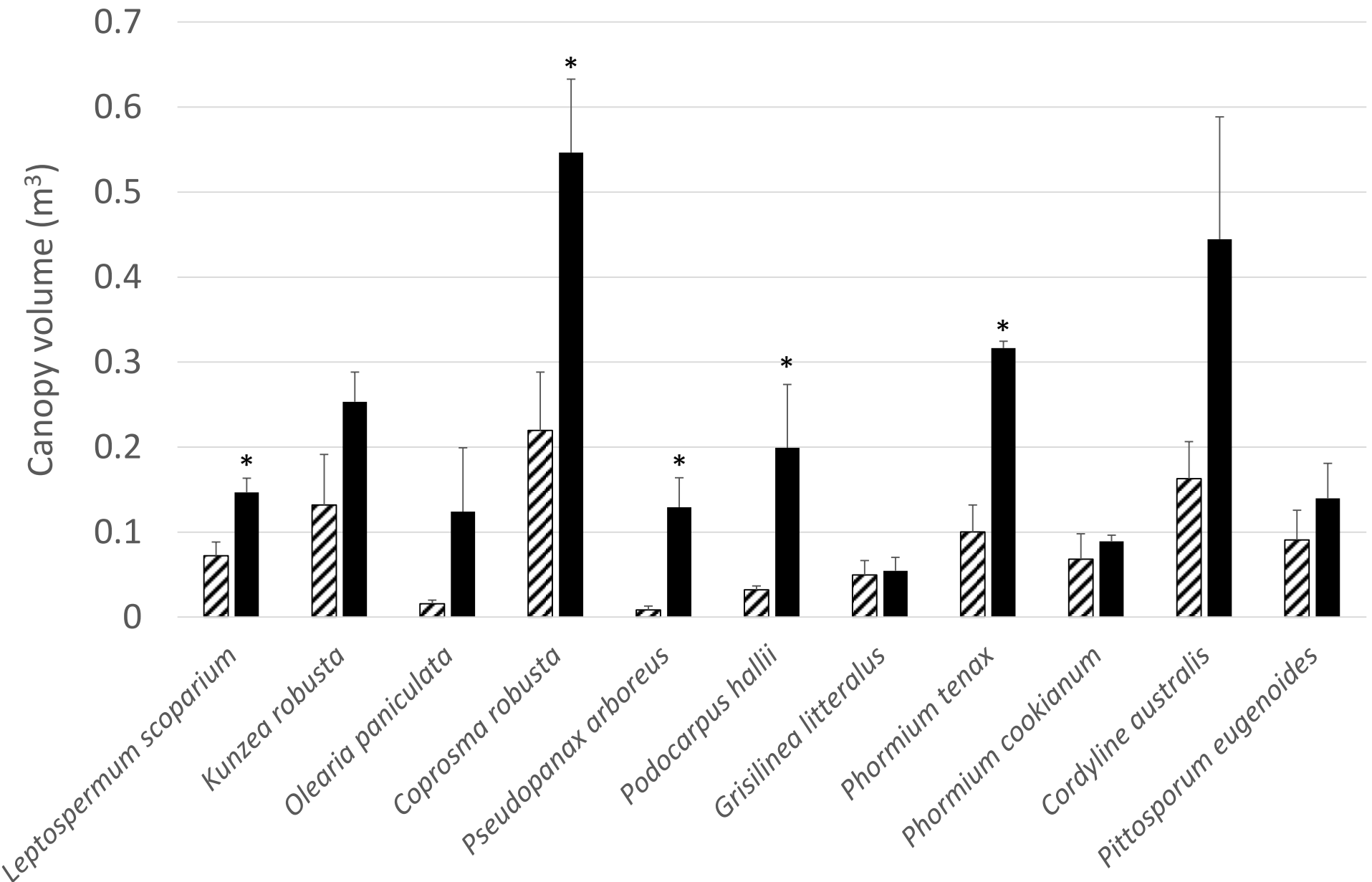
Element	Value (\$/ha/yr)
N	\$120
P	\$105
K	\$183
Water	(\$91 ~ \$1470) av \$770
TOTAL VALUE	>\$1178



Risk: Rise of Toxins in Waterways on Native Species

The image shows a sign with a diagram and text. The diagram illustrates a cycle of toxins in waterways, with arrows indicating the flow of toxins from a source (possibly a residential area) to waterways, and then to native species. The text on the sign discusses the impact of toxins on native species and the need for action to protect them. The sign is supported by two wooden posts.

Effect of effluent on NZ native plants

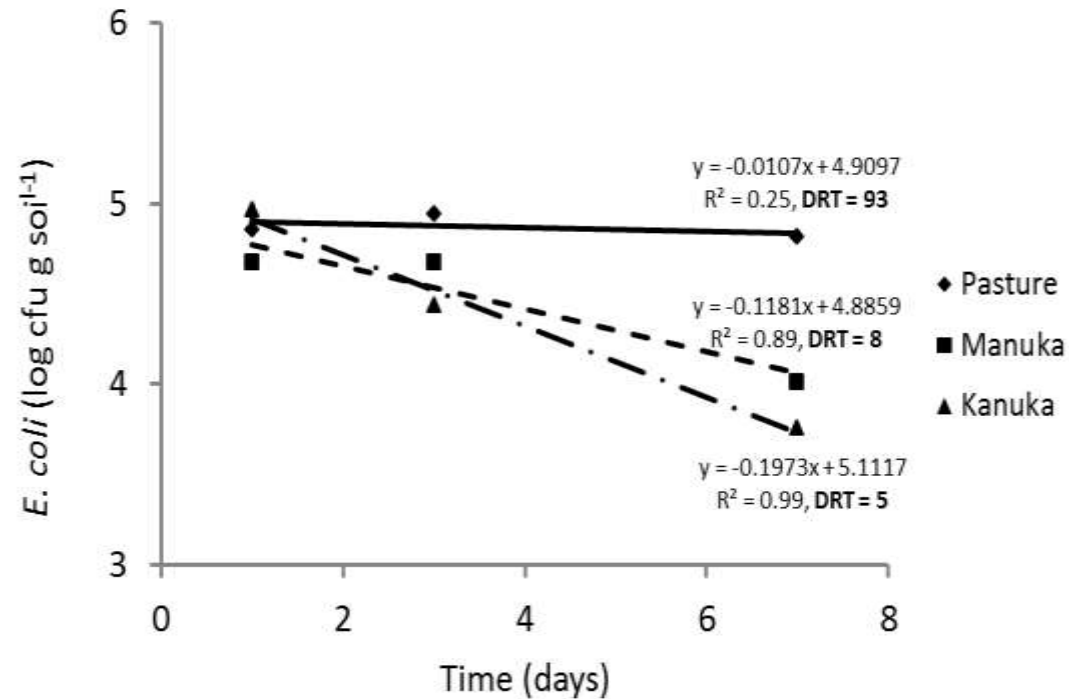




Manuka kills pathogens in soil



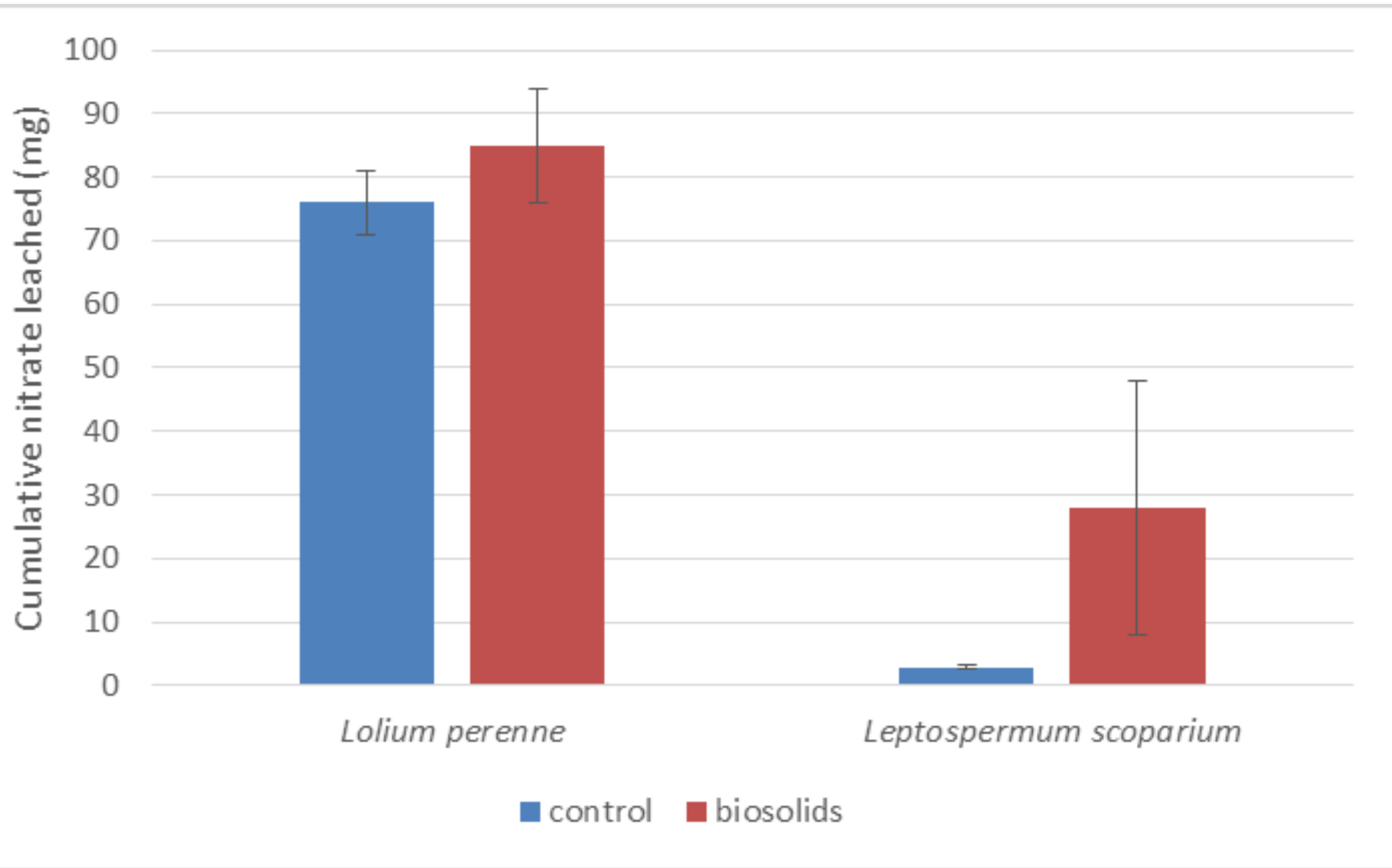
Enhanced die-off of *E. coli* under manuka

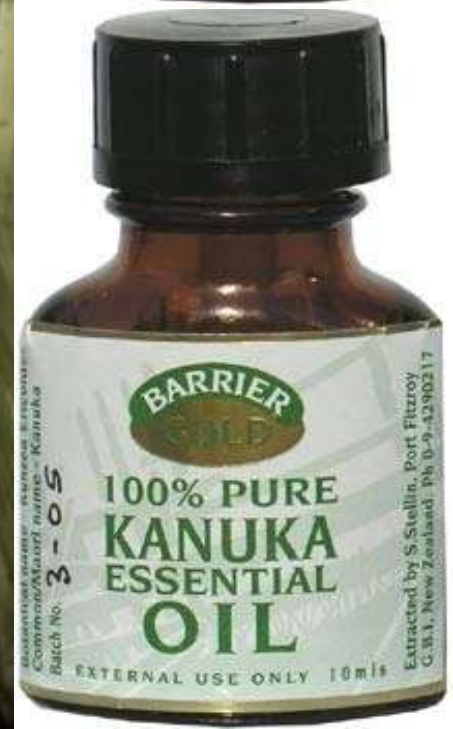




New Zealand's specialist land-based university

...and reduces nitrate leaching





Conclusions

- Disposal of the effluent into the harbor is a waste of a valuable resource.
- Irrigation of 500 – 800 mm/yr is recommended. Higher rates may be possible.
- Soil should be monitored for aggregate stability and gypsum, dolomite, or lime added as required.