

# Case study

Products used:

**+** Bactivate  
**+** BactivatePlus<sup>+</sup>  
**+** BactivateBioBoost<sup>+</sup>  
**+** BactivateSeaweedSolution<sup>+</sup>

## Background

Rohan Collins, a banana farmer from East Palmerston, North Queensland has been banana farming since 1986 when he purchased an old cane farm.

The Bactivate program was first applied in 2013 into a banana plant block where previously the trees had performed poorly. This block would suffer from nematodes and outbreaks of *Erwinia* (corm rot) and the trees would “rollout” on a regular basis

## Since implementing the Sweeter Soils designed Bactivate program:

- +** No longer any *Erwinia* problems.
- +** Nematode problems have diminished.
- +** Productivity has increased more than 50%.
- +** Soil Ca, K and P reserves have been unlocked for plant utilisation.
- +** Soil biological balance has improved.
- +** Soil carbon levels have increased.
- +** Increased carton to bunch ratios

*“ With the help of Sweeter Soil, I was able to achieve a remarkable plant crop the likes of which I have not seen for 30 years.”*

**Farmer's name:** Rohan Collins  
**Business name:** Laurel Gold Pty Ltd  
**Crops grown:** Cavendish Bananas

**Farm data**  
**Location:** East Palmerston  
**Area:** North Queensland  
**Established:** 1986



*Plant Block August 2016 - Brendon Collins impressed with his crop and following suckers.*



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## Outcomes and Benefits

The Bactivate products in the Sweeter Soils designed programs have since been applied to his whole farm to improve his production and fruit quality. There has been a significant increase in the carton to bunch ratios, with improvements from 1.3 to 2.0 during this time.

Rohan supplies his bananas to markets in Australia's capital cities and has future aims to increase his premium banana supply to those markets.



*This plant crop was very even. This saves time and money with reduced time in the field spent harvesting.*

Rohan noticed the Erwinia issues had completely disappeared; trees on the block would often only last 3 years before being needed to be ploughed out and replanted. Rohan commented “***Some of the areas of the farm were notorious for Erwinia (corm rot) problems. Since using the Sweeter Soils approach, I haven't had a single tree with symptoms***”

Rohan Collins now uses The Bactivate products across his entire farm under the Sweeter Soils program and remarks “***With the help of Sweeter Soil, I was able to achieve a remarkable plant crop the likes of which I have not seen for 30 years. I have had to redesign and strengthen my packing system to cope with the bigger bunches.***”



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