



## *Unlocking the Legacy: Can Mycorrhiza and Spent Mushroom Substrate activate Legacy Phosphorus?*

Phosphorus is necessary for plant growth. However, due to repeated applications by farmers globally, phosphorus (P) is accumulating in soil (known as Legacy P). Legacy P is not very available to plants as a P source and can wash off into the water, causing eutrophication. The purpose of this experiment is to find a way of accessing legacy P by using activators such as Arbuscular Mycorrhizae (AM) and Spent Mushroom Substrate (SMS). Soil (deficient in available P) was inoculated with AM and mixed with 10% SMS. Snap peas were planted and the rate of germination, shoot and root length, leaf size and biomass were recorded and compared with control. Results showed promise: plants grown in soil inoculated with AM were found to be healthier and bore more flowers than control. Since P is a finite resource, accessing this legacy P is essential for future crop growth and protecting water sources.

