



Coffee plantation gets results from biochar

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A coffee grower on the NSW North Coast is starting to see some results from biochar research on his plantation.

Jos Webber says the trees without compost or biochar aren't performing as well as the rest of the crop.

He says two different types of biochar were put on his seedlings 18 months ago as part of Industry and Investment NSW trials.

"There seems to be quite a difference in the way the two chars are reacting in the soil, in that the rice hull has almost formed a blanket and there has been very little activity in that, whereas with the slightly coarser biochar made from poultry litter, there's been a lot of activity in that, and a lot of that is now being incorporated into the under-layers of the soil."



Coffee grower Jos Webber with a handful of biochar. (Kim Honan)

Biochar is also being trialled with other crops, including sugar cane, macadamias, rice and avocados.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201103/s3176594.htm>