Harnessing the power of friendly fungi

There are more organisms in a gram of healthy soil than there are humans on our planet. And like people, some of them are good and others are bad... The bad guys in the soil manifest as garden pests or diseases, but if you harness the power of the good guys, they can benefit your soil and ultimately your plants.

*T. asperellum* is an excellent example of a beneficial fungus that has been identified and isolated. It is successfully being used to improve, impact and enhance root growth and crop yields globally. Since it is a natural organism, *T. asperellum* has been around for countless millennia, but it was identified as potentially beneficial to agriculture in 1934. After decades of research it was commercialised in the 1980s.

*T. asperellum* is a particularly aggressive and fast-growing fungi. It forms a symbiotic relationship with plant roots, growing with the roots and improving nutrient uptake, protecting root hairs, and enhancing and maximising root development.

*T. asperellum* is also a parasite of fungal pathogens and common soil diseases. It actually attaches itself to other, ‘bad’ fungi, parasitises and ultimately destroys the pathogen. Its aggressive growth rate allows it to out compete and displace other microbes, ultimately improving the soil and growth conditions for plant roots.

But how does this help us gardeners? Well, it is now possible to buy *T. asperellum* spores and apply them to your garden. It’s an affordable and natural solution to some of our common problems, including many of the root diseases (Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Phytophthora, Fusarium, Verticillium and Sclerotina) that affect our gardens.

*Trichoderma asperellum* is now available as Root Pro in the new EcoBuz product range. Most significantly, Root Pro has been proven to be safe for the soil, the garden and everyone in it. www.ecobuz.co.za