Charles Hanna, owner of ‘Colly Creek’ and ‘Plain View’, Willow Tree, applied TM Agricultural to part of a barley crop for the first time this season. The paddock at Plain View was treated with TM two days prior to sowing by farm manager Richard Noble. Richard applied the 250ml/ha TM to a large portion of the barley paddock and as a comparison in half of the TM treated area Richard halved the sowing rate of the barley from 50kg/ha to 25kg/ha as well as halving the starter fertiliser rate from 50kg/ha to 25kg/ha.

Due to the continual rain the crop received since being planted the second in-crop 250ml/ha TM application was unable to be applied. When I recently examined the soil and plants from the TM treated areas and compared them with the non treated TM area of the crop that had received 60kg/ha of starter fertiliser, the differences in the soil and plants were obvious to not only myself but also to Charles and Richard.

The soil in the non treated TM area of the paddock was tighter and less friable and as a result the roots of the barley crop were restricted and visibly growing at more horizontal angles due to the compacted anaerobic condition of the soil. The soil and plants in the TM treated area of the paddock that had received 50kg/ha fert and 50kg/ha seed sowing rate were less constricted than the non TM treated area and the roots were more vertical as they were beginning to bust through the hard clay pan due to the soil biology being encourage by the TM. Interestingly the soil in the TM area of the paddock that had received half of the fertiliser and half of the seed sowing rate was evidently darker, which is typical of aerobic soil, with a much more developed vertical root system, the soil was more friable, less moisture saturated from being able to drain more efficiently and also had a presence of earthworms which were dug up with the shovel full of soil. This can be explained by the reduction in synthetic fertiliser not interrupting the exchange of carbon for nutrients between the plants and soil microbes which have been activated by the TM application. It was also noted that there was virtually no difference in the plant stand between the 50kg/ha sowing rate and the 25kg/ha sowing rate in the TM treated areas of the barley crop. A great result considering only 1 x TM Agricultural application was applied.
Best Agronomist Keiran Knight with John Knight and Colly Creek Past Co manager Richard Noble

TM treated barley crop at Plain View, Willow Tree with Richard and Keiran taking plant and soil samples