



CropNews Email Newsletter of CropHouse Ltd #1 - 15 May 2008 - page 1

CropHouse Ltd

CropHouse Ltd is the new name of the consultancy business previously called Technolutionz Ltd. CropHouse is home to two consultants specialising in greenhouse and crop technology: Elly Nederhoff (based in Palmerston North) and Bert Houter (in Pukekohe). We both have expertise in climate control, energy efficiency, plant management, plant nutrition, water treatment, environment issues, crop recording, and more. Elly Nederhoff does research, computer studies, publishing and consultancy in many aspects of greenhouse technology, and is increasingly involved in energy, carbon accounting and carbon emission mitigation. Bert knows the finer tricks of greenhouse control computers, and can assist growers with computer settings for climate control, e.g. optimal humidity, minimum pipe, CO₂, screen, irrigation and everything else. Bert is working towards accreditation as energy auditor. CropHouse can be contacted via elly@crophouse.co.nz, bert@crophouse.co.nz or via website www.crophouse.co.nz.

CropHouse website

Our new website www.crophouse.co.nz is growing steadily, and will soon be packed with information. Articles written by Elly Nederhoff and Bert Houter for the Grower magazine over many years will be available on this website. They are organised in categories such as Plant growth, Growing conditions, Climate control & Energy, Hydroponics & Nutrition, and Water Treatment. There is also a long list of Useful links. Contact us if you want to be included in the list. The website is still being filled further, and will be updated all the time. Your feedback is very welcome. Check it out on www.crophouse.co.nz.

CropRecord

Crop-recording aka crop-registration is a tool for improving production, energy efficiency and profitability of greenhouse crops. Crop-recording is based on weekly plant measurements and putting data in a computer-based system. Crop-recording helps with data interpretation and decision making. Overseas crop-recording is standard practice, but the overseas systems are expensive or coupled to a certain product. Hence we developed NZ's own crop-recording system: 'CropRecord' (spreadsheet) and 'CropAdvice' (website). Funded by HortNZ and MAF-SSF, they are available for free to NZ growers and consultants. Both systems were recently released in version 2.

CropRecord version 2 is a spreadsheet in which you enter the measured data. It produces tables and graphs, showing links between growing conditions and production. CropRecord can be ordered from us, and will be sent to you by email. You can order CropRecord through the website www.cropadvice.co.nz or by contacting us directly or via info@cropadvice.co.nz. You can install CropRecord yourself on the hard drive of your PC, or get Bert Houter to install it for you. Bert will also customise the system and explain how to do the measurements and data recording. This will give you an easier start and better results. More about crop-recording in our following Newsletter.

CropAdvice

CropAdvice version 2 is a website: www.cropadvice.co.nz. It explains the ins and outs of crop-recording and contains a wealth of information especially on how-to-do crop steering and climate control. The first time you must register on the website, and you'll get access within a day. After that, you simply type in your password to get in. It's all self-explanatory, but assistance is at your fingertips by emailing to info@cropadvice.co.nz.

Email-Newsletters

This Email-Newsletter is to become a regular feature to inform NZ growers about what's new in CropHouse Ltd, in CropRecord (spreadsheet) and on the CropAdvice website. If space allows we'll include snippets on new technology and news flashes. Please contact us via the websites mentioned above or send an email to elly@crophouse.co.nz to give us permission to send you our Newsletter.

Articles in the Grower

In the June issue of the Grower we'll have an article on solar heating of greenhouses as done in Kenya. In a later issue we'll write about CHP (combined heat & power) on waste wood, and taking CO₂ from it.

Happy growing!