



Crop-recording

Crop-recording aka crop-registration is a method to improve plant steering, production, energy efficiency and profitability of a greenhouse crop. It is standard practice for advanced growers overseas. But these overseas systems are expensive or only available to users of a certain product. Now a package is developed in New Zealand, consisting of 'CropRecord' (spreadsheet) and 'CropAdvice' (website). These two unique computer-based systems can assist NZ growers with crop-recording and decision making. Funded by HortNZ and MAF-SSF, they are available for free to growers and other professionals in the NZ greenhouse industry. Crop-recording and plant steering are most effective in the young to medium plant stage, so it's best to start at planting. Now is the time to order CropRecord for the new crop season!

CropRecord & CropAdvice version 2

CropRecord and CropAdvice were completed in March 2008 and version 2 is now available. If you are a current user, you will be pleased to hear we made many improvements and added new features. If you are unfamiliar with these systems, you can find some explanation here below.

CropAdvice

CropAdvice is a website on www.cropadvice.co.nz. It explains you how to do crop-recording and also contains a lot of know-how on plant balance, plant steering, growth, production, growing conditions, climate control, energy and irrigation. For version 2 we added a lot of new info especially on climate and energy. The CropAdvice website is protected against unauthorised users by a password system. Hence the first time you want to use the website, you need to register. You will get access normally within a day. After that, you simply enter the website by typing your password. It's all self-explanatory.

CropRecord

CropRecord is a spreadsheet in Excel for recording plant growth and growing conditions, showing you where you can make improvements. A fair number of growers have used it over the 2007/2008 season and will use it again in the new season. Improvements in version 2 include: more features for tomatoes and capsicum; recording of cucumber and other crops is added; daily instead of weekly irrigation data; various units for irrigation; plus many small improvements throughout.

Ordering

CropRecord version 2 can be ordered from us now. It will be sent to you by email. Either contact us directly, or email us via info@cropadvice.co.nz, or order through the website www.cropadvice.co.nz. You can install it yourself on the hard drive of your PC, or Bert Houter can install it for you (Bert is the developer of CropRecord and CropAdvice). He will also hide irrelevant components, adjust screen and printer settings, etc. Moreover he can explain how to do the measurements and recording. Last year growers who got assistance from Bert made a better start and got more out of it.

CropHouse Ltd

We have changed our business name to CropHouse Ltd (replacing Technolutionz Ltd). CropHouse is the home of two consultants specialising in greenhouse technology: Elly Nederhoff (in Palmerston North) and Bert Houter (in Pukekohe). Email us at elly@crophouse.co.nz and bert@crophouse.co.nz. Our new website www.crophouse.co.nz is growing steadily, and will soon be packed with info. Articles written by Elly and Bert for the Grower over many years will be available on this website. It also contains a long list of Useful links. Contact us if you want to be included in it. This website is freely accessible.

Newsletter

We want to produce a Newsletter like this regularly, containing snippets on new technology for greenhouse growers. By law, we need permission to email it to you. If you are interested in receiving this Email-Newsletter, please contact us via the websites mentioned above or email elly@crophouse.co.nz.

Articles in the Grower

In our regular series for the Grower magazine, we write about solar heating of greenhouses in Kenya (this issue); next issue will be about Combined Heat & Power on waste wood, and taking CO2 from it.