

Grochem lifts the bar on quality control

A growing force in New Zealand's agrinutrients and agrichemicals sector, Grochem is focussing on expanding its range of products for local horticultural businesses and developing its international markets.

Behind every facet of the operation is a total focus on meeting international standards in the vital areas of food safety and quality control.

George McHardy, business manager and one of three directors and shareholders in Grochem, said the Porirua-based company blends a range of imported and New Zealand ingredients on-site, strictly adhering to every possible international testing regime. Thus providing security to both distribution and growers.

Grochem has its own quality control testing facilities on its premises. They have recently installing some of the latest, high-tech equipment available internationally which was previously only able to be accessed offshore. Independent laboratories are also still utilised for testing and certification of products.

For over 20 years, Grochem has worked closely with the local horticulture industry and independent researchers to develop an extensive range of products that meet industry requirements in four specific areas – plant nutrition, insecticides, fungicides, and plant growth regulators. Many of these are the company's own 'recipes', developed for New Zealand soils and climate, and the prevailing pests, fungus and diseases.

In addition, Grochem partner with a number of multinational agrichemical companies to bring specialty products to growers.

The company has a dedicated staff of sixteen, including a chemist, research manager and technical field agronomists with extensive experience.

Grochem imports raw materials from a number of overseas countries, including USA, Chile, China, Japan, Norway and Germany, and while these meet certificate of analysis before export, they are all rigorously tested on arrival to ensure the passage out, across the equator, has not altered the chemical signature.



Martin Turver, Production Chemist.



Some of the 2,000,000 litres ready for dispatch.



From left: Marcus Albrecht, Martin Turver & George McHardy.

Currently, the plant annually formulates 500 tonnes of granules and powders and around 2,000,000 litres of liquids. While some is exported, with main markets in Australia, Chile and South Africa, much is sold locally.

Grochem works with industry bodies to ensure market access requirements can be met by growers with confidence for the plethora of country and supermarket standards.

Grochem is one of the largest suppliers of Bio-Gro certified organic inputs to control pests and diseases.

George McHardy says product innovation via R&D, quality assurance and market access requirements are among the key drivers for Grochem. This focus has helped deliver rapid company growth over the past decade and will be a significant factor into the future. 🌱