



STOCKER HORTICULTURAL & HYDROPONIC SUPPLIES (2004) LTD

PO Box 32, Tirau, State Highway 27, Matamata Road, Tirau, New Zealand.

Phone: 07-883-1051 Fax: 07-883-1052

Email: stocker@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.hydroponics.co.nz

What is Hydroponics?

Hydroponics is the growing of plants without soil. This means the plants grow in an inert medium that contains no plant nutrients. The plant nutrient containing all the necessary minerals for satisfactory plant growth, are supplied in a nutrient solution.

Almost everything can be grown hydroponically including a wide variety of vegetables, fruit and flowers such as lettuces, herbs tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicums, chillies, beans, watercress, spinach, courgettes, cabbages, cauliflower, spring onions, celery, leeks, orchids, roses, carnations, Sandersonia, rock melon, strawberries..... The list is almost endless. Anything that grows in soil can be grown in hydroponics.

The Advantages of Hydroponics

- It is possible to grow things, where in many cases it would not normally be possible. For example, poor soil, rocky areas, rooftops, or you can use garages or sheds providing you have artificial light.
- Labour input is reduced compared with soil growing, because of no digging and virtually no weeding.
- As plants do not compete for nutrients or moisture, space requirements are slightly reduced, meaning you can grow more plants in less space. But each plant must still get sufficient light, or problems when overcrowding will occur.
- It is easier to provide the optimum growing conditions with hydroponics, thus making it easier to achieve better quality plants, never short of water or food.
- Healthy, fast growing plants do not suffer to the same extent from pests and diseases and the flavour and texture of the crop improves with the balanced nutrient solution.

NFT – Nutrient Film Technique

Dr Allan Cooper at the “Glasshouse Crops Research Institute” in Great Britain developed NFT. The name of the system is derived from the plants being grown in a thin film of nutrient solution. The solution flows by gravity down a channel and is collected in a catchment tank and pumped back to the top of the channel for reuse. The system is very cost effective and is very popular with commercial growers, and those who want to be environmentally clean, with no run off of minerals into the soil or local water supply.



Why Stocker Horticulture and Hydroponic Supplies?

Stocker Horticulture is owned and operated by Wayne and Marilyn Woodhouse. Grenville, Joyce and Neville Stocker who have been involved in the commercial hydroponics industry since 1977 set up the business in 1995.

The Stocker family continue to be involved in the business today.

Stocker Horticulture and Hydroponic Supplies (2004) Ltd is currently supplying world class products and services to the hydroponic industry worldwide with customers as far a field as Lebanon, The Philippines, Japan and the USA.

Stocker Horticulture and Hydroponic Supplies aims to service the Horticultural industry, both in New Zealand and overseas, with the design and supply of hydroponic equipment and systems, whilst providing on going advice in systems management.

Situated in the heart of the North Island, New Zealand, the rural location gives excellent freight links to all parts of New Zealand, with air or sea freight links for export to other countries.

Stocker's offer a free design and costing for your venture, together with ongoing advice and materials required to make the venture profitable.

The principal members of the company are:

- Wayne and Marilyn Woodhouse – Directors
- Neville Stocker – Technical information, system design and installation
- Grenville and Joyce Stocker – Consultants

If you have any queries or think you would like to try Hydroponics, please contact us one of the following ways:

Phone **07 883 1051**

E-mail – **stocker@xtra.co.nz**

Website – **www.hydroponics.co.nz**

