

Smarter Seaweed

Looking to science for solutions based in nature

Smarter seaweed solutions are now available to New Zealand growers. Mark Yortt of Grosafe explains the importance of a special kind of seaweed and advanced extraction methods.

New Zealand's kiwifruit and avocado orchards were the first to see the benefits of seaweed products developed by Grosafe. The Mt Maunganui-based company now works across a wide range of horticultural crops as more and more growers embrace a regenerative farming approach. Grosafe's most recent innovation has seen their proven seaweed products made accessible through distribution.

Many farmers know the benefits of seaweed, but less well known is that not all seaweeds are equal. In terms of nutrient density and plant yield, the most effective seaweed species is *Ascophyllum nodosum* from the North Atlantic. This species is the main ingredient in Grosafe's range of foliar and granular plant bio-stimulants.

Grosafe thoroughly researched the optimum formulation. "When we were developing the *Ascophyllum nodosum* concentrate we started with a powder but subsequently moved to a much improved flake formulation which uses

a patented manufacturing process to retain more of the phytohormones and other growth promotants than the powdered formulation," says Mark.

Seaweeds produce anti-stress compounds to help them survive in the harsh ocean environment. These and other valuable natural compounds present in seaweed act to 'chelate' micronutrients, making them more readily available to plants. When seaweed is added to the crop this results in stronger resistance to pests and diseases while improving a plant's ability to withstand climatic stresses such as prolonged drought and frost. The rewards come at harvest time with the higher yields that result from improved plant vigour and flowering.

BioPower® Seaweed Flake and **BioPower® Liquid** are BioGro Certified seaweed concentrates derived from *Ascophyllum nodosum*, which is a natural store house of major and minor nutrients, carbohydrates, amino acids and naturally occurring plant bio-stimulants, to support crop health, nutrition and quality. It is easily applied and sprayed directly onto the foliage.

BioPower® Stimulate® is a liquid concentrate of *Ascophyllum nodosum* with added bio-stimulants to improve



flowering, lift crop yields and help when transplanting. The addition of Salicylic Acid improves plant resilience to fungal attack, drought and frost damage. Use it as a tonic to revive sick or unhealthy plants.

OceanFert® Seaweed Fertiliser is the only slow-release seaweed fertilizer on the market and is BioGro Certified. Derived from *Ascophyllum nodosum*, for use in all horticultural and vegetable crops, ornamentals, nurseries, lawns and turf as a slow release fertiliser and naturally derived soil conditioner to support plant growth, increase crop yield and quality and support plants against abiotic and biotic stress. It is high in organic matter helping to improve soil structure.

For more information and innovative products visit www.grosafe.co.nz



Grosafe®

Grosafe Chemicals

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