

THE MICROTURBINE: WHY A GAS ENGINE MAY AT LAST BE OF BENEFIT TO THE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY

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The microturbine, or small gas turbine, has only been commercially available since the late nineteen nineties. In its short life, it has struggled to shrug off the stigma attached to reciprocating gas engines, which were initially installed as the cost-effective technology of the day. Experience with reciprocating gas engines, particularly in the horticulture sector, has not been an overwhelming success leading to an understandable reluctance of the industry to embrace yet another 'leading edge' technology.

Our paper discusses the basic microturbine technology, highlighting the features that make this gas engine have potentially wide applicability in the horticulture industry. The paper highlights the desirable performance characteristics that can benefit the end user without compromising product quality and site operation while the operational flexibility of the technology allows users to control and maximise their particular energy needs.