

Our Founder – Dr. Thomson A. A. Thomson

From a three-car-garage in 1939 to worldwide store shelves over 75 years later, Superthrive has had a fabulous journey few products can match—all thanks to the creativity and passion of its founder.

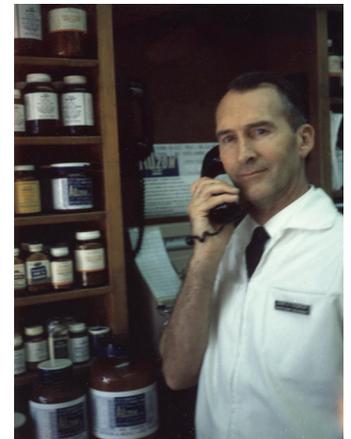
Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Dr. John A. A. Thomson was a teenager when he moved with his mother to Los Angeles, California. She stressed the importance of nutrition and Dr. Thomson internalized that message. Her lessons were reinforced when Dr. Thomson began grooming terriers as a young entrepreneur. He saw firsthand how important proper nutrition was to healthy growth and development.

Discoveries of the role of chemical processes in plant development made by renowned Dr. Fritz Went and others fascinated Dr. Thomson and led to his studies at the University of Southern California in Biochemistry. It came naturally to create a product dedicated to plant wellness. He was forever proud of his World's Fair Gold Medal in Science and Industry, awarded to Superthrive in 1940.

As a true old-time salesman, Dr. Thomson spread word of Superthrive nursery by nursery. Sales trips became family vacations as the whole family visited growers across the country. His daughter Patrisha remembers, "We had the rare opportunity to be part of his work as he turned family vacations into sales trips in the magical environments of greenhouses and wholesale nurseries. He shared by example his appreciation for how things grow."

Dr. Thomson was known to be curious, focused, innovative and meticulous. Customers who met him came to anticipate his wit and warm disposition, and appreciated his vast knowledge about human and plant health. His annual Christmas card included a wealth of information aimed at "improving your health through supplements and other nutritional knowledge." Many even attributed their health and longevity to Dr. John's advice.

He made deals on a handshake, and forged long-lasting business and personal relationships. He was a major presence at industry trade shows. People continue to speak of him as a legend in the industry. One nursery department manager reminisced, "I was at a TNLA show and remember John Thomson sitting in the booth with just a chair. The airlines had lost his stuff, but he was talking to everyone and had a crowd around him!"



Loving husband and caring father of three children, he was inspired to use his knowledge of nutrition to benefit his family. In the 1940's he developed ProtectAllLife, a vitamin supplement for people which inspired him to open a health food store in the 1960's. Ultimately, Superthrive's growing success required his undivided attention.

Married for almost 60 years, Dr. Thomson said that everything he accomplished was inspired by his wife June. He called her the "Love and light of my life. My incentive. My brilliant, gentle, every way beautiful, vital fountain of loving kindness."

Dr. Thomson saw Superthrive honored with many awards, including the 1940 World's Fair Gold Medal in Science and Industry. In 2006, he received the Manufacturer's Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lawn & Garden Marketing and Distribution Association.

