

GOGO at the GG's



Flemington Racecourse Track Manager, Mick Goodie, is a self confessed workaholic – but when you're looking after the turf of one of the most prestigious racecourses in the country you have to be! His dedication to the health of the track has led to him living on-site for the past 10 years.

Twice a year the turf at Flemington Racecourse track is renovated, and five years ago was completely replaced with over 47km of drainage laid under the track. A Kikuyu base over-sown with 3 perennial rye grasses keeps the turf lush and green.

In the warmer months from September to March two of Mick's staff work 6 nights a week irrigating the track to keep it beautifully green.

Every 2 months soil tests and leaf analysis are carried out on the turf - Mick uses the results to determine what extra supplements the turf requires.

After an attack of cockchafers in 2010, Mick has been particularly keen to improve the root growth of the turf. Mick incorporated an application of GOGO Juice into his fertilising program once a month, and has since seen an increase in a stronger, healthier white root growth - A strong white root growth is important as it means the Kikuyu is



actively growing and healthy. Last year the Kikuyu woke from its dormancy in early August rather than October, and Mick attributes this in part to the applications of GOGO Juice. (cont'd p2)

Did you know?

Whilst Neutrog is essentially an organic fertiliser manufacturer, less than 1% of its total production is used by certified organic growers. Neutrog's organic fertilisers are predominantly used by conventional farmers and growers.

GOGO at the GG's (cont'd from p1)



Mick Goodie checks the track at Flemington Racecourse



During the cooler and generally wetter months of April to July the Kikuyu is dormant and susceptible to brown mould, water rot and rust attacks. To prevent a resistance

building up to the preventative sprays that are used to control these outbreaks, the chemical sprays are rotated regularly. An application of Blade Runner in Autumn will help to

further improve drainage and root growth, to improve water penetration through the soil, before the Kikuyu goes into dormancy.

Maintaining the turf at Flemington Racecourse is literally a 24/7 job. When Mick first started, he would escape the madness at the end of a hard days work by climbing up onto the roof of the Member's Stand! He'd crack open a beer and watch the sun set over the Melbourne city skyline.

These days OH&S prevents him from visiting his favourite beer drinking spot. Instead, once a year, he escapes overseas for a well deserved break, looking at turf of a different kind – on a golf course! **n**

Just try it.

The 'Just Try It' branding by-line was introduced to reflect Neutrog's philosophy that you simply can't compare organic based fertilisers against their chemical counterparts utilising conventional NPK methodology alone.

Organic fertilisers not only supply a wide range of nutrients to the soil, but most importantly provide the catalyst for healthy growth by stimulating the natural processes that occur in the soil.

The only way to judge these for yourself is to 'Just try it'.



Neutrog are offering new Broadacre customers a chance to 'Just Try it' with a Bounce Back Special Offer. Enquiries can be made on freecall number 1800 656 644.

Gyganic!!



A new boosted fruit and vegetable fertiliser (7:2:10+ trace elements) with humic acid and kelp.

The organic component will aid in retaining the water soluble nutrients in the soil and help regulate their uniform uptake by the plants.



Neutrog Commercial Company Representative, **Mark Hill**, loaded up the ute with a giant pumpkin he had quietly been growing out the back of the offices here in Kanmantoo and headed off to the Kangaroo Island Field day at the Cygnet River Racecourse. Grown using Bounce Back, GOGO Juice & Sudden Impact for Roses, the pumpkin was a huge hit at the field day stand where Mark answered queries from a mixture of home gardeners, grape growers, pasture, crop and potato farmers, all keen to know how to achieve such outstanding results.

Organic Matters!

These days most farmers and growers are well aware of the crucial role their soils' organic matter plays in the health and development of the crops they are growing.

Amongst many other important roles, organic matter aids in retaining nutrients within the soil and helps regulate their uptake, as required, by plants. Organic matter also plays a significant role in retaining moisture within the soil, reducing the impact of heat and moisture stress.

All of which ultimately leads to sustained increases in yields and a more consistent, uniform fruit and vegetable grade/size.

In essence, the higher the soils' organic matter level, the better.

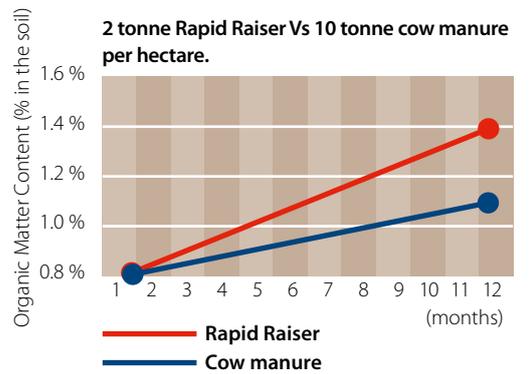
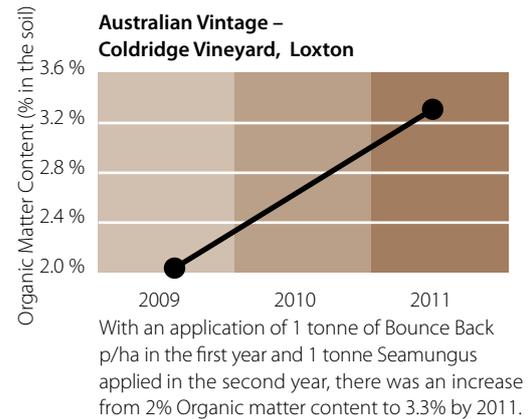
Organic matter levels can be improved by simply adding a volume of organic



material, or by stimulating the natural processes that occur in the soil, through the proliferation or addition of the beneficial bacteria and microbes that aid in "turning"

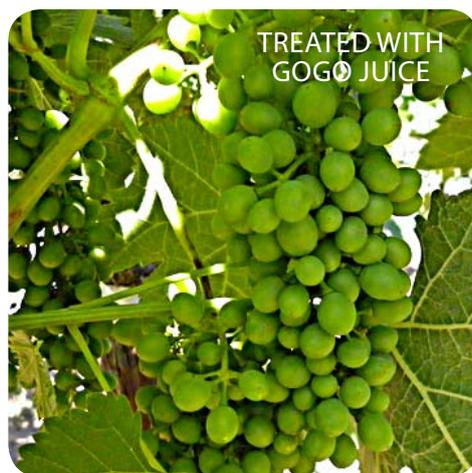
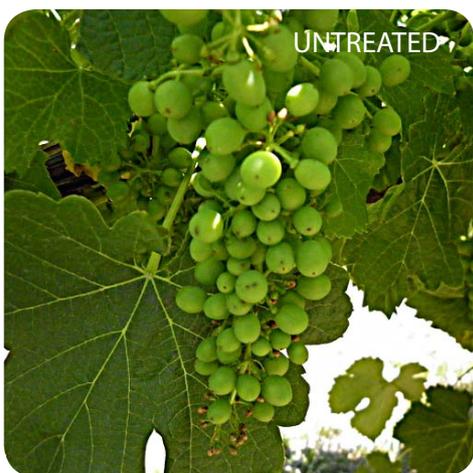
existing organic materials into organic matter – or by a combination of both.

Whilst the Neutrog range of organic products, are specifically designed to deliver both, the trial results shown at right would perhaps indicate it is the stimulation of the natural processes within the soil, rather than the volume applied, which has the greatest positive impact upon increasing organic matter levels within the soil.



GOGO Juice – size does matter

On a recent visit to Hewitson Wines, Winemaker, Steve Crawford was quick to show the differences he had seen between Shiraz grapes treated with GOGO Juice and those



without. As you can see, the untreated grapes had numerous 'shot' grapes whereas the treated had none of these and provided heavier bunches with more uniform grape size.

Similar positive results have been found in trials on carrots grown on the Bergamin Farm at Virginia in South Australia. The GOGO Juice treated crops were larger, had a darker centre and were noticeably sweeter than the untreated carrots.



STOP PRESS

Tours of the Neutrog manufacturing operation and/or speakers for meetings and events are now available to interested farming groups. Please phone Erica or Mark on freecall 1800 656 644 to discuss.



Charlotte Morley Illawong, Parawa. *Love affair with the land*



Charlotte Morley has been farming her entire life. Such is her passion that her father, Eric Bonython agreed to go into partnership with her in 1956 when she was just 15 years old. The farm known as Illawong has an area of 640ha, is situated at Parawa and has an annual rainfall of 950mm.

For many years prime lambs and beef were produced. However after a visit to the UK in 1987, Charlotte, who had always strived to produce the best prime lamb, found Texel sheep and began her own stud in 1994. On Illawong, they also carry 3 other breeds of stud sheep; East Friesian, Poll Dorset and Dohne. Currently some 3500 sheep and a small number of Charolais/Murray Grey cross cattle are run on the property.

Prime lambs are produced for the local market. Charlotte delivers lambs nearly every week to a butcher in Goolwa, and when possible to a butcher in Adelaide. She also runs a fortnightly stall at the Victor Harbor Farmer's Market. The lambs are produced from ewes that are half texel, as this breed produces the high yielding carcasses that the meat buyers want. All of Charlotte's lamb is stamped with the Illawong Texel logo

and the high number of repeat buyers is testament to the quality and taste of the meat. The rams are run with the ewes from January till May and lambing goes from July to October. This long lambing period enables Charlotte to supply her customers with carcass weights ranging from 18 – 30kg most of the year depending on their requirements.

To keep the lambs growing at a good rate all year round there are numerous pasture species and fodder crops grown, including perennial ryegrass, sub clover, phalaris, lucerne, plantane and chickory. Hay and wrapped silage are produced in spring, with Charlotte using the silage production to remove patches of weeds from the pastures and converting it into a high quality supplementary feed.

Charlotte is passionate about sustainable farming and wants to pass the land onto the next generation in

better condition than it was, and so the last 40 years has been dedicated towards improving the soil and pastures along with some revegetation. A priority early on was to use lime and reactive rock, which utilised acid in the soil to break down, thereby reducing soil acidity. This was followed by the application of minerals, and since that point organically based fertilisers have been in use whenever possible. For the last five years Neutrog's Rapid Raiser and Bounce Back fertilisers have been in use and Charlotte is delighted with the quality of the pasture and the abundance of earthworms in the soil.

The improvements have helped Charlotte feel that she is well on the way to the goals she has set herself to care for the land. She looks around her farm to see all she has achieved with the comment, "This is what farming is all about". *nl*



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Just try it.