



The Experts' Choice

# WINTER e-feedback

YOUR REGULAR GARDENING NEWS FROM NEUTROG

EDITION #3

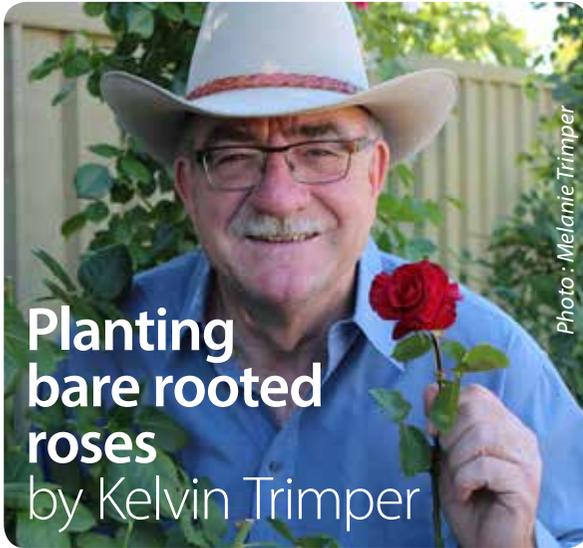


Photo: Melanie Trimper

Planting bare rooted roses  
by Kelvin Trimper

## BUSH TUCKER UPDATE



More successful Bush Tucker trials



**NOW AVAILABLE!**



GOGO Juice transformation



Pruning and fertilising underway

# BUSH TUCKER UPDATE

...AND THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Native plant expert, Angus Stewart and soil scientist, Simon Leake conducted their own trials with Bush Tucker. Angus explains how they set up the trial, what they were trying to achieve and the results.



prev

Bush Tucker was trialled with two native species, *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle', a grevillea notorious for being particularly sensitive to phosphorus, and the second one being a kangaroo paw, *Anigozanthos* 'Landscape Violet' that is not sensitive to phosphorus. The plants were grown in a virgin sandy topsoil from Somersby, NSW (derived from the very infertile Sydney sandstone) in a production nursery at Somersby. There was a control with no added fertiliser whatsoever, as well as 1 and 3kg per cubic metre Bush Tucker treatments, which are the sort of rates that would normally be applied to potted plants in a production nursery.

The results were spectacular and highly successful for both species. Firstly, *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle' in particular showed beautiful healthy growth at both fertiliser rates with no signs whatsoever of phosphorus toxicity. The growth rate for both the 1 and 3 kg/cubic metre treatments was much greater than for the control and the performance at 3kg was



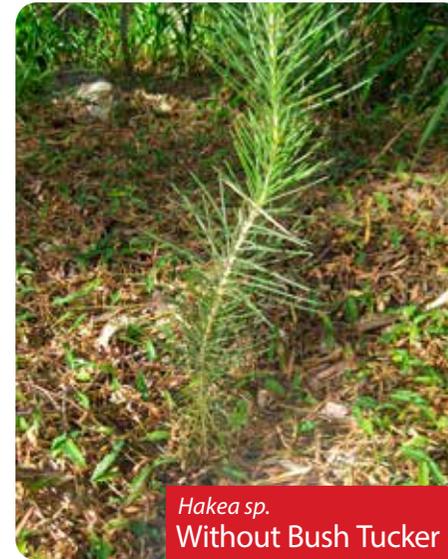
not much greater than for 1kg. This result is typical of many phosphorus sensitive species that benefit from a small application of low phosphorus fertiliser with not much extra benefit if the rate is increased. Secondly, the kangaroo paw 'Landscape Violet', which is not particularly phosphorus sensitive, showed a much better response at 3kg than 1kg, which in turn was a great improvement on no fertiliser at all for the control. In other words, native plants like the kangaroo paw that are not particularly phosphorus sensitive appear to benefit from increasing fertiliser rates as they are heavy feeders and will perform much better at the higher rates in contrast to plants like the grevillea.

The bottom line for us was that the trial clearly showed that Bush Tucker was extremely beneficial and also perfectly safe for both phosphorus sensitive and non-sensitive native plant species.

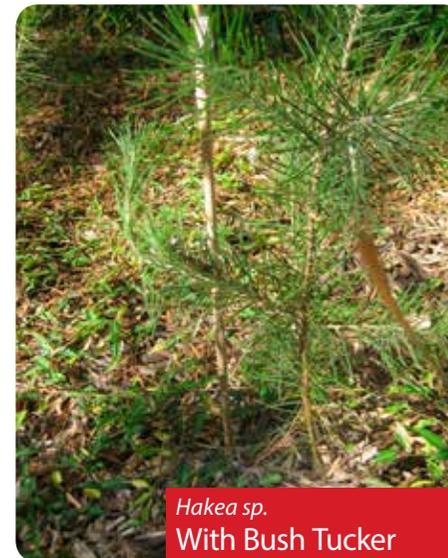
The optimal rate for each species will need some experimentation, with a rough guide that more sensitive species will need lower rates to achieve excellent growth rates.

To see more detail about Simon and Angus' trials read their [Bush Tucker Trial Report on the website.](#) 

Eleanor sent us these photos of her Bush Tucker trials.



*Hakea sp.*  
Without Bush Tucker



*Hakea sp.*  
With Bush Tucker

Photos: Eleanor, Volunteer - Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden

"We applied the Bush Tucker 5 months ago to plantings in a new area at Stony Range and all those that received the fertilizer showed a marked increase in size over those that received none."

Eleanor is a volunteer at Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden in N.S.W. Situated on 3.3 hectares of Hawkesbury sandstone escarpment, Stony Range was previously a disused stone quarry. Native plants from all over Australia have been planted in the garden alongside local indigenous species. Stony Range volunteers partner with the Warringah Council to maintain the garden.



next



**NEUTROG**  
The Experts' Choice

# Planting bare rooted roses by Kelvin Trimper

Roses have a short dormancy period in Australia and June, July and early August is certainly the period when planting new roses or relocating existing roses should occur. Roses prefer a rich, loamy soil. It is recommended that you plant roses away from root competition, particularly tree roots and in full sun - a minimum of 6 hours per day. Roses planted in shady areas will not thrive.

I prefer planting bare rooted roses as they quickly settle into their new homes and soils. This compares with potted roses whose potting medium may be very different to the soil profile in your garden bed. In addition, bare rooted roses are generally less expensive than potted roses.

When selecting, pick those that have a solid healthy bud union (where the rose was grafted onto the root stock producing a small, woody knob) and have not already produced strong growth (i.e. young shoots longer than 1 to 2 cm). Avoid those showing evidence of die-back - black stems starting from the tip of the stem. Once growing well, sturdy new canes will grow from this bud union area.

Once the plant is home, remove it from its plastic bag, shake off any sawdust or other product that has prevented it from drying out and soak it in a full bucket of water for at least one hour. This enables the young plant to have a good "drink" prior to planting and it also wets any roots that may have accidentally dried out in the wrapping.



While the rose is soaking, dig a square hole approximately 30cm x 30cm and a spade depth. To assist the new rose, place a small handful of Neutrog Seamungus in the base of the hole and cover with 2 cm of soil.

Remove the rose from the bucket and trim or remove any damaged roots with sharp secateurs. Damaged or broken roots can result in the production of suckers (root stock) which can rapidly over-take and dominate your plant. Position your rose in the hole so that the bud union (woody knob in stem where the branches emerge) is approximately 2cm to 3cm above the natural soil level. Observe where the roots fan out from the base of the plant.

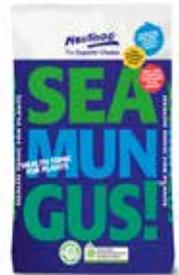
Remove the plant and create a mound in the base of the hole such that when you place the rose back into the hole the base of the rose stem rests on top of the

mound and its roots can be "fanned out" as evenly as possible from the shank of the plant down the sides of the mound.

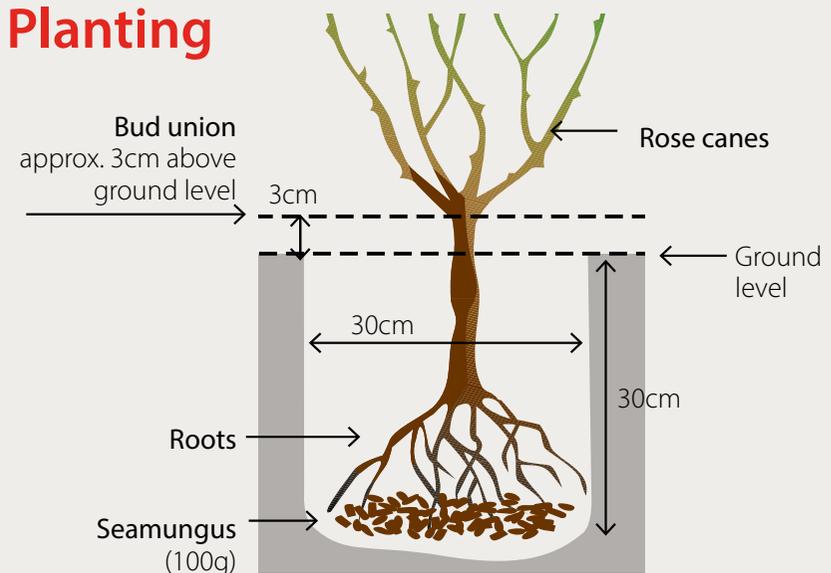
Back fill the hole to approximately half full and fill the hole with a bucket of water. You can gently wriggle the rose to remove any air pockets around the rose roots.

Wait until the water drains away, then backfill the hole to the natural soil level. The height at which the rose is planted is very important.

The bud union should be only slightly (2cm to 3cm) above the level of the soil. Finally, you can mulch the rose with a high quality product and at completion the bud union should be resting on top of the mulch. You should not need to irrigate the rose until mid-spring, assuming average winter and spring rainfall. **N**



## Planting



Kelvin Trimper is the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Past President of the National Rose Society of Australia and Life Member of the Rose Society of SA.

*This is an edited version of an article first published in SAGardens Magazine.*



# Mailbox

"Hi to the creators of Kahoona,

I was recommended your product from the good folks at Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens.

I am fortunate to be the head gardener at Fraser Park, Stirling, with Camellias and Rhododendrons in a cool temperate garden in the Adelaide Hills. The Camellias have displayed a gorgeous flush with no signs of yellowing or mottling and I look forward to further blooms... you peeps sell a great product."

*Tristan - Head Gardener, Fraser Park*



We'd love to hear of your gardening successes. Send your comments & photos for us to share with other gardeners.

[info@neutrog.com.au](mailto:info@neutrog.com.au)

What a transformation!  
The 1st photo was taken when not much hope was held for this poor diseased and struggling plant. GOGO Juice was applied and the 2nd photo was taken just 8 weeks later.



In our last newsletter we reported that an 'unnamed' rose submitted by Knight's Roses in the National Rose Trial Garden had been selected as the 'People's Choice' at an event in April. Over 1200 members of the public had an opportunity to select their favourites from the roses trialed over a two year period and with a whopping 698 votes this rose was the clear winner. It seems that we do not have to wait to add this stand-out rose to our own gardens with its recent release as 'We Will Remember Them'.

The rose was released to recognise the contribution of the Australian Armed Forces during World War I and Daniel Knight of Knights Roses chose the name from the poem 'For the Fallen' by Englishman Laurence Binyon published in 1914.

The rose has been a number of years in the planning. When Daniel met French Rose Breeder Jean-Pierre Guillot about five years ago he suggested a new rose could be released to commemorate Australia's involvement in the First World War. "Jean-Pierre made me realise the significance with which the people of France still view the

Australian contribution, and that the sacrifices the Australian troops made have not been forgotten. The Australian flag is still displayed in windows and classrooms in Villers Bretonneux in recognition of the town being liberated," Daniel said.

The rose is a Hybrid Tea with large high-centred blooms. Growing to 1.7m x 1.2m, this rose produces prolific decorative blooms of rich yellow and bright orange with red-pink tips. It repeat flowers extremely well in flushes throughout the growing season. The bush is upright, vigorous and hardy with good disease resistance - perfect for bedding, as a feature rose or a colourful hedge. The classic rose shape, long straight stems and fresh sweet rose fragrance also makes it suitable as a cut flower.

Knight's Roses will donate part proceeds from the sale of each 'We Will Remember Them' rose to the Office of Australian War Graves to contribute towards the maintenance of war cemeteries in France - a lasting and memorable tribute to our war dead.

For more information contact Knight's Roses. [www.knightsroses.com.au](http://www.knightsroses.com.au)



# FEED IN WINTER FOR A HEAD START IN SPRING



- Ideal for establishing new and bare rooted plants
- Rejuvenate soils and boost plant health
- Increase root development and frost resistance



Year round  
fertilising for  
year round  
health

**NEUTROG**  
The Experts' Choice

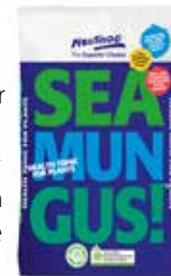


When Helen, our Victorian Customer Relationships Manager, dropped in to Treloar Roses she found gardener Max Dart contemplating the task of pruning and fertilising the 1000 roses in the Treloar display gardens. The display garden showcases over 180 varieties of roses.

At pruning time they are all fed with Seamungus and at the first sign of new growth Sudden Impact for Roses is applied. This winter there is also a new area being planted out with recently released rose varieties. What better way to choose a rose for the garden than by seeing it on display in all its glory.

Pruning and Seamungus applications are underway around the country with many staff and volunteers out with the secateurs at Botanic Gardens and public rose gardens in every state. These include Mornington Botanical Rose Garden, Victoria, the International Rose Garden, South Australia and Araluen Botanic Park in Western Australia. The expert pruning team at Flemington Racecourse are also still hard at work to meet the Melbourne cup flush deadline.

The beauty of applying Seamungus now is that it will be watered in by mother nature and give the roses a head start for spring growth – both above and below the ground. **N**



## Pruning and fertilising underway



Max Dart contemplates the task ahead at Treloar Roses





# Garden groundwork in Winter

## Flowering Plants:

Keep your verandahs, patios and decks vibrant with winter colour. Polyanthus are always reliable, come in the most incredible colour range and can be purchased as established plants. This is perfect if you need instant colour. Always use a good potting mix and feed fortnightly with **Strike Back for Orchids liquid**. Remember to remove spent flowers to ensure long lasting displays. Other great plants are primulas, English daisies, stocks and primroses. Prepare soil well by adding **Cock'n'Bull** prior to planting. Feed your camellias with **Kahoona** in late winter once they have finished flowering. Always keep the **GOGO Juice** up to your entire garden.



## Winter Fragrance:

Gorgeous fragrances can be enjoyed throughout the winter garden. Look for luculia, wintersweet, woodbine, erisimum, daphne. Plant near a door or pathway.

## Roses:

It's rose pruning time. If needing some guidance contact your nearest Rose Society for advice and details of any local pruning events where you can learn from the experts. Remember to prune to an outward facing bud, remove any spindly or weak growth and keep the centre relatively free and open. Plant new or repositioned roses using **Seamungus** and be ready to feed with **Sudden Impact for Roses** in spring at the first sign of new growth.



## Fruit Trees:

Winter is a perfect time to be selecting fruit trees for your garden. There are so many available including dwarf varieties which are ideal in large pots. At planting time, dig the soil to a depth 1½ times the depth and twice the width of the pot or root ball of the tree you have chosen. Dig plenty of organic matter through the soil. Rapid Raiser and Seamungus are perfect for this. Keep them well watered once they start to leaf up. Water in with **GOGO Juice** and apply monthly thereafter.



## Natives:

Natives will take off beautifully if planted now. Use **Bush Tucker** – mix well through the soil and cover with some fresh soil. Also feed established native plants. There are some gorgeous grevilleas, acacias and hakeas to choose from now. Your local nursery has an ever increasing range of these beauties.



## Vegetables & Herbs:

If you haven't already done so, in most areas there is still time to plant rhubarb, potatoes, asparagus crowns and garlic bulbs. Prepare the soil well with the addition of **Rocket Fuel** or **Rapid Raiser** – a couple of handfuls per square metre. Established vegetables will also benefit from the same application. Pop in some beetroot, spinach and silverbeet.



## Lawns:

It is easier to aerate lawns now there has been some rain, so use a fork or lawn aerator and then top dress with **Blade Runner** or **Seamungus Crumble** to help improve root growth over the winter period when leaf growth tends to be slower. **Sudden Impact for Lawns** will give you brilliant results when applied in spring. Did you know that Sudden Impact for Lawns is also wonderful for ferns, palms, conifers and non-flowering hedges (all except natives).



**NUMBER ONE GARDEN TIP FOR WINTER:** Apply **Seamungus** to your entire garden. The seaweed will strengthen up the cell walls of your plants, therefore assisting them in coping with winter stress – particularly frost.



**Year round fertilising for year round health**

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season. Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.



Visit our Online Store for Trial Packs, Sample Packs and 'From The Ground Up' Books.



Join the Pooh Bah Club Become a member of Neutrog's Pooh Bah Club to receive regular updates on Neutrog, its products and their applications. To join, register your email address at [www.neutrog.com.au](http://www.neutrog.com.au)



Follow us on **facebook** via the link on our website, click the 'like' button and join us for regular updates. All comments, questions, photos and feedback are welcome.



Neutrog Australia Pty Ltd  
288 Mine Road, Kanmantoo  
South Australia 5252  
T (08) 8538 3500  
F (08) 8538 3522  
E [info@neutrog.com.au](mailto:info@neutrog.com.au)  
W [neutrog.com.au](http://neutrog.com.au)

**NEUTROG®**  
The Experts' Choice