

# Neutrog's April 2019 newsletter

Welcome to Neutrog's April 2019 Home Gardener Newsletter.

Can you believe it's April already? Hopefully for most of us there is a little bit of rain around, the weather is cooling down, soil temperatures are still warm, so now is the perfect time to plant - particularly trees, shrubs and perennials.

New plantings will establish good root growth before slowing down in winter, and you'll see the rewards in early spring when the autumn-planted stock has had time to establish and show wonderful new growth. Autumn is also a good time to transplant any shrubs or trees, and to propagate new plants from cuttings.

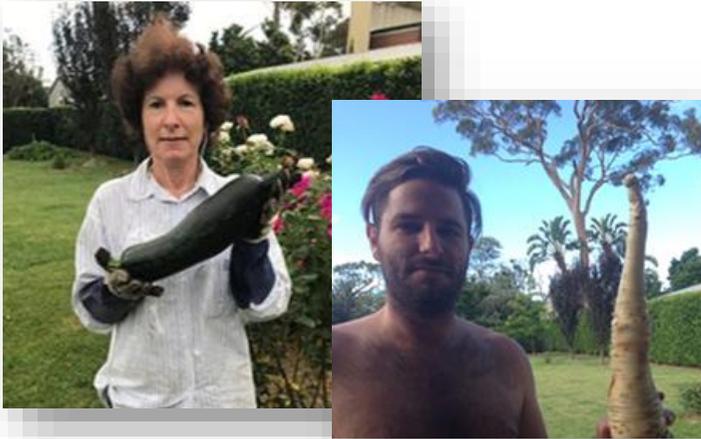
We trust you enjoy our newsletter. If you would like to be emailed a print-happy version of the newsletter, contact us at [marketing@neutrog.com.au](mailto:marketing@neutrog.com.au)



## Coming up

- Garden Community
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## Growing great veggies

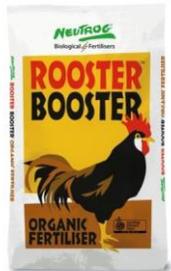


Shannon from Mount Kuring Gai in NSW sent us these photos recently – one of herself holding a huge zucchini, and her son Harry with a very large parsnip. Shannon says she was thrilled to grow such a large zucchini and it wasn't the only one – she stuffed it with a yummy recipe of pork, chicken mince and rice. The parsnip went into a rabbit stew and Shannon said it was delicious.

Shannon attributes Rooster Booster to her vegetable successes. *“I also use Sudden Impact for Roses on all of my roses (including the very impressive standard Renae rose pictured here), plus Gyganic for the citrus trees which look stunning (I have 10 different varieties) as well as my plum tree which had a bumper crop this year, and not one fruit fly as we netted the tree. I also use Kahoona for my gardenias which thrive”.*



*“I think Neutrog has fantastic products and I have just purchased my first bag of Whoflungdung and have put it around one of my rose gardens & tomatoes. I will get some more which I order in from Bunnings at Thornleigh. When I rang Bunnings, they said they are getting so many orders for Whoflungdung that they are considering getting it in stock”. (Whoflungdung is currently available from Bunnings as a special order only).*



**About Rooster Booster** – Exclusive to Bunnings, Rooster Booster is a unique blend of the highest quality composted raw manure, specifically formulated for the most effective and safe feeding of all your garden plants. It promotes natural healthy plant growth and healthy well-structured soils.

If you're a Neutrog user, why not email us at [marketing@neutrog.com.au](mailto:marketing@neutrog.com.au) with photos of your own vegetable successes.

## Whoflungdung vs sugarcane mulch

Braidan Swan is a member of the Rose Society of NSW Southern Sydney branch, who has been conducting a trial with Whoflungdung and sugarcane mulch on shallots, lettuce and bok choy with rather spectacular results. One bed has had an application of sugarcane mulch, and the other bed has been applied with 20mm of Whoflungdung. *“As you can see the plants mulched with Whoflungdung are growing out of the ground receiving nothing but Whoflungdung and some H2O. The results so far are fantastic”* says Braidan.



Left are photos from the trial – Bed 1 is Whoflungdung, and Bed 2 is the sugarcane mulch. Braidan goes onto say *“As you can see the Whoflungdung bed is a lot healthier and holds more water than the one with sugarcane - both are watered on the same timer with the same sprinkler system. The plants mulched with Whoflungdung look a lot healthier, and are not attacked by bugs like the bed mulched with sugarcane”*.

The two photos to the right show the huge plant size increase in the Whoflungdung bed in just 6 days from the 4th March to the 10th March.



## This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum

### Rare plum budwood collected

Sam Luke, Business Manager of Balhannah Nurseries along with David Kerber and Bob Edwards from the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia visited the Arboretum this month to collect some budwood from a brand new variety of plum called 'Starlight Plum'.



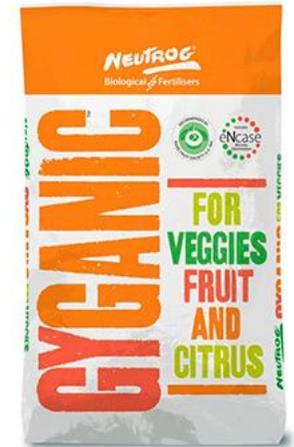
Known for its pleasant taste along with its high level of antioxidants and health benefits, this variety has been grown and developed from a seedling by a Rare Fruit Society member in Adelaide.

After nearly 3 years of growing and testing by Balhannah Nurseries, the results were exceptional, so the plant will be released to the home gardener in December by [Plantnet](#) - a small dedicated team focused on providing the best plants possible to home gardeners. The budwood taken from the Arboretum was shipped



**About the Rare Fruit Arboretum** - the establishment of the Rare Fruit Arboretum at Neutrog's Kanmantoo site is a joint venture between Neutrog and the Rare Fruit Society of SA. More than 300 rare and endangered fruit trees have been planted, including apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, figs and quinces.

Along with helping to ensure their preservation, Neutrog uses the trees to carry out fertiliser and biological application performance trials, as well as researching the microbiology in and around the root zone of each species, and determining their optimum nutritional and biological needs. One such product used in the Arboretum is [Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus](#), which was developed in conjunction with the Rare Fruit Society.



## It's time to apply Gyganic to your citrus!

Like all plants, citrus trees need nutrients to grow. Because they can be heavy feeders, it is important to fertilise on a regular basis in order to have a healthy tree that bears lots of fruit. Fertilising a citrus tree can make the difference between a poor crop or a bumper crop.

Citrus trees are most nutrient-hungry from the time they bloom until they have firmly set fruit, so make sure you apply citrus fertiliser when the tree is in bloom regardless of health, so that it has enough nutrients to properly produce fruit.

Here are the Kanmantoo Rare Fruit Arboretum we have been busy applying Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit and Citrus, and at the same time spreading a layer of Whoflungdung to keep down the weeds.

Recommended by the Rare Fruit Society of SA, [Gyganic for Veggies Fruit and Citrus](#) has been specifically developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste. It is a premium organic based, chemically boosted complete fertiliser with the full range of nutrients in an organic form, coupled with boosted levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and magnesium. Gyganic's unique organic base of manure, humates and rock phosphate have been composted and blended with the biologically active GOGO Juice containing kelp and seaweed – producing a very nutritious organic base product high in organic carbon.



From the desk of Neutrog's  
resident microbiologist  
**Dr. Uwe Stroehler**

## The Biological Approach

### Plant Recovery - by Dr. Uwe Stroehler

No doubt it has been a very tough year on plants and many have suffered in the heat, so now is a good time to get them looking their best again. Even if there has been some rain, the first thing to do is keep the moisture up to the plants. The other thing to do is to give them a gentle feed.

Many gardeners believe they should feed heavily at this time of year, however heavy feeding encourages a lot of rapid new growth, and while there is still the chance of some hot weather in April, these leaves are not hardy enough to survive until the heat passes.

In addition, the high level of nitrogen in some products leads to a large increase in leaf area which the roots may not be able to support. A plant can only carry as many leaves as the root system is capable of providing nutrients and moisture for, and in dry, hot conditions (unless you've kept up the mulching and watering), plants have more than likely lost some of their root system.



A gentle feed allows the roots to keep up with the new above-ground growth. Plants use their reserves of nutrients to come back from stress, and if you knock them down again, they often don't recover a second time. These photos show how a Neutrog employee's garden is flourishing, having recently had an application of Seamungus and Whoflungdung - and coped exceptionally well in the March 45 °C+ degree heat.

**About Seamungus** - Because the level of nutrients in Seamungus is sufficient for the plant to put on new growth, it is an ideal recovery fertiliser and soil conditioner. It contains composted seaweed, which can stimulate root development – this is essential for the recovery process.

Additionally, Seamungus has a great water-holding capacity (it can retain up to 70% of its own weight in moisture), and also helps to eliminate some of those non-wetting properties many soils have after summer. Seamungus is manufactured by combining the very best of composted raw materials – seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure. Available in the original pellet form, a crumble form and a 1L liquid concentrate, the Seamungus formula remains the same for all three.

Seamungus is also a health tonic and planting food for all plants including natives, lawns and bare-rooted roses. The plants love it and the soil microbes get stimulated by it. Seamungus will help your plants resist heat, drought and frost, along with pests and disease.



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## Neutrog Radio

Listen to Dr Uwe as he dishes the dirt on gardening and soil microbiology on [2GB and FIVEaa](#).



# What's brewing

## Liquid tanks investment

It was great to see the first new 10,000 litre stainless steel tanks arrive on site recently for our expanded new biological brewery. These tanks will be going into a new warehouse, which we hope to have completed within the next 3-4 months.

This expansion not only allows us to cope with the significant increase in demand we are seeing for our current liquid biological products such as GOGO Juice, but will provide greater capacity to produce a wider diversity of new and innovative products.



### When to use GOGO Juice?

- At planting
- At the first signs of new growth
- Just prior to bud burst
- Monthly to your whole garden
- NOW!

GOGO Juice is ideal for your vegetable patch, natives and all potted plants and lawn areas. Also a great kick starter for your compost heap, adding the microbes needed to speed up the process.

Use GOGO Juice whenever your soil or plants need that extra boost.

# International Update

## South Africa



Last month we reported on Gromor - a South African company who have recently been awarded the license to manufacture NeutroG's products at their new purpose-built factory in Durban, South Africa.

The factory has been busy manufacturing the very popular Bounce Back, and the team has been busy getting it into stores including Chamberlains, Blackwood's, Ruimsig Mica, TWK Agri, Budget Plants, LOTS of POTS, Colour Country Nursery, Monkey Fountain Nursery and Buildersfan.

# Featured product

## Whoflungdung

Graham Ross from Better Homes & Gardens has been a long-time user of our super-mulch Whoflungdung - he was actually one of the first people in Australia to trial it before it was released to the general public.

Anyone who's heard Graham talk about Whoflungdung on his 'Garden Clinic' radio show on 2GB would know that he thinks it's a great product, and we were very excited that he featured it on Better Homes and Gardens in March.

[Click here to watch Graham talk about Whoflungdung on Better Homes & Gardens](#)



**About Whoflungdung** - Whoflungdung is a biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbent, super mulch. It's composted, inoculated with eNcase and filled with nutrients, so that when added to soil it introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria. These beneficial bacteria readily proliferate through the soil, acting as a barrier/deterrent to pathogenic bacteria, providing a safe environment for healthy plant growth.

Additionally, Whoflungdung is sustainable - it is a recycled waste product, made up of straw and wood shavings screened from chicken manure. In many instances Neutrog supplies the fertiliser that grows the crop from which the straw is sourced. Now that is sustainability.

As Graham says *"Not only is the product weed free, but amazingly, when you put it on your soil and around your plants, it keeps them weed-free as well"*. Most significantly, Whoflungdung reduces, if not eliminates, the nitrogen draw-down which is often reflected in plants after mulch has been applied. Apart from reducing weeds, many users also happily report that blackbirds don't like it



# Birdwood Wholesale Nursery, QLD

Neutrog's R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehler and John Paynter recently visited Birdwood Nursery in Woombye, QLD. Already using Seamungus and GOGO Juice, Birdwood Nursery are currently trialling Neutrog's Gyganic for Vegetables, Fruit and Citrus.

Birdwood Nursery is a production nursery specialising in the highest quality fruit trees, supplying commercial growers and retail nurseries throughout mainland Australia. They grow everything from avocados, citrus and mangos to an extensive range of other exotic and interesting plants including loquat, lychee, papaw, papaya and feijoa.



Operating for over 37 years, the award-winning nursery has established one of the strongest reputations in the industry for excellence and customer service. The nursery is an industry leader that uses superior rootstocks and advanced cloning techniques to create consistently high-quality plants that can be tailored for specific environments.

Birdwood Nursery is part of the Fleming's Group of Nurseries, which is where the recommendation to use and trial Neutrog products came from. Flemings is one of Australia's largest bare root production nurseries, a leading advanced tree nursery and a superior container nursery, growing ornamental, deciduous fruit and native trees and shrubs. The company also houses a landscape services division catering to the specialist needs of urban planning and landscaping from architectural design, tree planning and specification advice and more. A 100% family-owned company located in Monbulk in Victoria, Flemings has been growing and producing new and improved cultivars for almost 100 years.

During their visit, Dr. Uwe and John spent a couple of hours talking to Liz, Jess and Kumar about soil biology, how they grow and fertilise their plants and how to overcome some of the challenges in producing healthy, marketable plants. They were treated to a tour of the very impressive facility and learned how the varying species are grown. They discussed the trials, the benefits of a healthy and diverse soil biota, how to overcome issues with water quality and chlorine in water supplies, and how Neutrog products could further benefit their nursery. They even managed to squeeze in a cuppa and cake. Thanks goes to Birdwood Nursery for a very informative and enjoyable visit.



# BUSH TUCKER

"Native plants are great survivors in the garden but to get them to thrive and reach their full potential they really need regular fertilising".

Angus Stewart



## The Expert's Choice

Our many product endorsements provide retail staff and home gardeners with the confidence to use and recommend Neutrog products.



## Pooh Bah Club



## Join the Pooh Bah Club

Are you a member of Neutrog's Pooh Bah Club yet?

Receive regular updates on new products, newsletters, promotional offers and our year-round fertilising programs. By becoming a Pooh Bah member you will also assist with our support of various community organisations and initiatives.

It's free to join, communication is via email, and you can unsubscribe at any time. Simply click the link below and enter your details (we promise not to bombard you with emails or share your details with anyone else).

<http://www.neutrog.com.au/join-the-pooh-bah-club/>

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## Research and development

### Litterbugs

In March we were visited by Professor Kapil Chousalkar & Dr Nicky-Lee Willson from the University of Adelaide, who presented some eagerly awaited trial results from our first stage, efficacy and safety tests on our new, high tech, biological product, "Litterbugs" - a journey that has already taken us well over two years.

The \$80,000 cost of the initial trial was funded equally by Neutrog and a Federal Government 'Innovation Connections Grant', and was carried out over a 3-month period from September to December 2018 at Roseworthy Agricultural College, where Litterbugs was applied to the bedding material of broiler chickens.

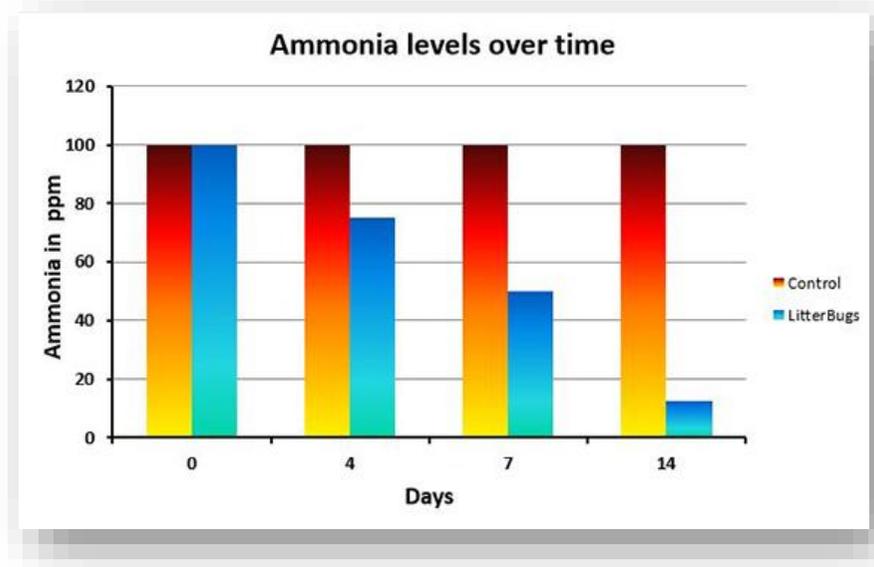
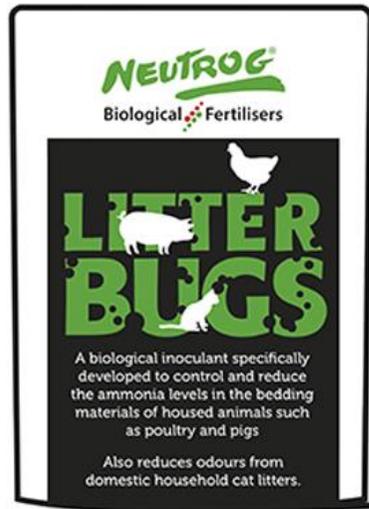


Young chicks were introduced into the pens and monitored for their health, weight gain and feed conversion for a period of 42 days. Several critical outcomes were archived during this trial - the first was that the application of "Litterbugs" does not in any way negatively affect either the health or the ability of the birds to grow and gain weight. The second was that there was a significant drop in the level of ammonia in the litter in the first two weeks of rearing.

In presenting the research findings, Dr Willson advised that the positive results should allow us to proceed to second stage field trials in commercial broiler chicken sheds. The idea of a larger scale trial was also supported by the veterinarian who represents a large chicken meat producer, who was present during the discussions. We are certainly excited about the potential world-wide application of "Litterbugs".

**About Litterbugs** - Ammonia production and emissions in the livestock industries around the world are major environmental and health concerns for both animals and workers. Ammonia is of particular concern in the poultry industry, as high levels of this gas have a detrimental effect on chicken health, leading to livestock loss and reduced output.

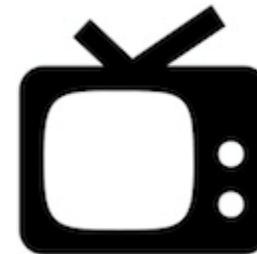
During some routine on-site compost testing, Neutrog's resident microbiologist, Dr Uwe Stroehrer unearthed some bacteria and yeast which were found to be able to oxidise ammonia, thereby turning this toxic compound into a safe and inert gas. Further laboratory tests quickly confirmed their effectiveness in reducing the ammonia levels, which led us to seek the more formal trial.



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## Neutrog TV

Check out Neutrog's latest [TV appearances and video clips](#) for garden and fertiliser tips.

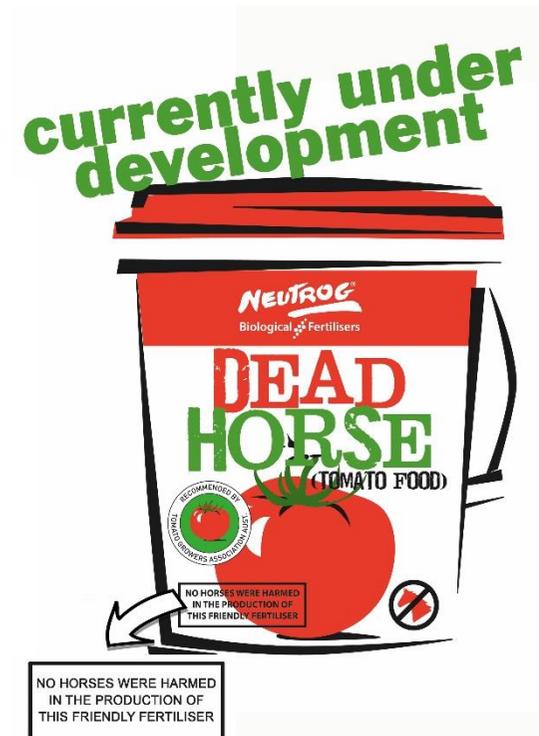


## New Products

### Dead Horse Tomato Fertiliser

'Dead Horse' is our specialised tomato fertiliser that is currently being developed to produce the optimum balance of nutrients in tomatoes.

We can assure you that no horses are harmed in the production of this fertiliser. For those of you who are not aware, 'dead horse' is Australian slang for 'tomato sauce' and was once a huge part of the Australian vernacular.



## Around the Grounds

### Truckloads of Whoflungdung to Flemington

Flemington Racecourse is known world-wide for its amazing display of roses - they have been using Sudden Impact for Roses and Seamungus for many years. Following a successful trial of Whoflungdung, they have recently ordered two B-Double truckloads of Whoflungdung to be spread on the rose gardens once the roses have been pruned in winter. Flemington grounds staff were very impressed at how great the beds looked after Whoflungdung was applied, and that it wasn't blown around like other mulches.

# Neutrog's Year-Round Fertilising Programme



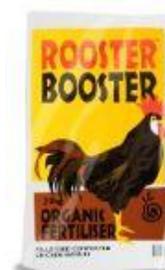
## Year round fertilising for year round health

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.

## Autumn Specialist Fertilising Programme

### Planting

Use Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Rooster Booster for any new plantings. Give the hole a really good soak, and let the water penetrate. Also make sure the hole is at least twice the size of the root ball. Throw some pellets into the hole and mix through the soil - it will give the plant a gentle nutrient boost. All 3 products are certified organic by the ACO.



### Flowering Plants

This Autumn, feed your roses and all other flowering plants (except natives) with [Sudden Impact for Roses](#) and water it in with [GOGO Juice](#) to encourage a faster uptake of the nutrients by the plant. Pop some around your perennials too. Gaura, Penstemon and Salvia will all like that extra 'oomph' as they've all been through a long hot summer.

Sudden Impact for Roses is ideal for all flowering plants, not just roses. The balance and ratio of nutrients combined with the very best of raw materials are the secret to its success.



## Non-Flowering Plants

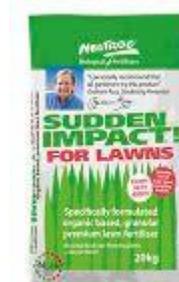
### Lawns:

Consider a lawn - it consists of thousands of tiny plants, all competing for the same water, nutrition and sunlight, and it needs assistance from you. To get that beautiful lush growth which will be the envy of all, feed and water regularly. As we move into cooler weather, you can set your mower a little lower if you wish. Fertilise with Sudden Impact for Lawns and water in with [GOGO Juice](#); sit back and wait for the compliments. Now is a great time to fix bare patches in your lawn. Top dress the patches with [Seamungus Crumble](#) and spread lawn seed over the area. Water it in using GOGO Juice.

### Hedges:

A hedge loves a fertiliser with a higher nitrogen to potassium ratio. Did you know that Sudden Impact for Lawns is great for hedging plants, conifers and ferns? Water in well with GOGO Juice, which will ensure you are populating your soil with beneficial bacteria. By “embracing the bugs” with GOGO Juice, you’ll be making sure that the bugs eat the organic fertiliser, which will ensure an even better result.

[Sudden Impact for Lawns](#) is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser specifically developed for new and established lawns, along with other non-flowering plants such as palms, ferns and conifers, as well as leafy vegetables and herbs.



## Acid Loving Plants

The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development in acid loving plants, whilst the boosted levels of iron and magnesium help maintain healthy green foliage, aiding in preventing the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring. Feeding now with Kahoona will satisfy any acid-loving plants' nutritional requirements without altering the pH of your soil.

[Kahoona](#) is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as camellias, gardenias, azaleas, daphne and rhododendrons. It's also great for blueberries!



## Natives

Apply [Bush Tucker](#) to your winter flowering natives, and water in with GOGO Juice. Developed to meet the needs of *all* Australian native plants, Bush Tucker was developed by NeutroG in consultation with native plant expert Angus Stewart and soil scientist, Simon Leake. Utilising a unique process, trace elements have been added to lock up phosphorus, making Bush Tucker ideal for even the most phosphorus-sensitive plants such as grevilleas, banksias and proteas.



## Potted Plants

Sprinkle some [Strike Back for Orchids](#) over any potted colour this season, as it's suitable for all potted fruiting and flowering plants, not just orchids. If you do, you'll be rewarded with cascades of colour over autumn and winter.

It's exciting when your orchids really start to perform. For the best flower spikes on your orchids, we recommend fertilising with Strike Back for Orchids two months prior to when they flower – that is, if your cymbidium orchid flowers in June, then April is the best time to start feeding. You'll have healthy growth and more flower spikes, with more flower buds per spike.

Strike Back for Orchids combines the best of both worlds – its organic base provides a full range of plant nutrients in a slow release form, whilst the carefully selected water-soluble nutrients have been added to maximise the performance of each application. Strike Back for Orchids is available in a pellet form (used monthly) or the liquid form (used weekly).



## Veggies & Herbs

Mix some [Seamungus](#) through the soil before planting veggies and herbs to help give your seedlings the best start in life. Water in well with GOGO Juice. Autumn is great for kale, snow peas, broadbeans, garlic, lettuce, peas, silverbeet and lots of other vegetables.

[Seamungus](#) is a health tonic and planting food for all plants including natives, lawns and bare-rooted roses. It will help your plants resist heat, drought and frost, along with pests and disease, and will retain up to 70% of its own weight in moisture.



## Fruit Trees

Lightly tip-prune citrus trees to encourage new growth and spread Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit and Citrus around the drip zone of the plant. Apply Gyganic again after 8 weeks. Why not plant a citrus in a pot? You can use Gyganic on established potted plants; the application rate is a quarter of that of a ground-grown plant.

[Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus](#) is specifically developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste. It is a premium organic based, chemically boosted complete fertiliser with the full range of nutrients in an organic form, coupled with boosted levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and magnesium.



## Mulching

Applying mulch to your garden at this time of the year will not only suppress weeds, but it will help prevent new weeds from growing, and will also keep the soil temperature constant. [Whoflungdung](#) is a biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbent, super mulch. It's composted, inoculated with eNcase and filled with nutrients, so that when added to soil it introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria.

These beneficial bacteria readily proliferate through the soil, acting as a barrier/deterrent to pathogenic bacteria, providing a safe environment for healthy plant growth. Most significantly, Whoflungdung reduces, if not eliminates, the nitrogen draw-down which is often reflected in plants after mulch has been applied.



[Click here to listen to Dr. Uwe Stroehler talk to Graham Ross from the 2GB Garden Clinic about Whoflungdung and how to apply it.](#)

## Soil conditioning

[GOGO Juice](#) provides a huge boost of the living microbiology necessary for your soil and plants to perform at their optimum level, increasing their ability to resist pests and disease, and to withstand heat and frost stress. The microbiology in GOGO Juice promotes plant growth as well as stimulating and improving root growth and development.

