

feedback

winter 2006

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Neutrog the OK
Winter fertilising
for success
in spring



Araluen Botanic Park



Araluen Botanic Park joins the long list of Australia's best rose gardens and public gardens to use Sudden Impact for Roses. This park has remained an icon of Western Australian culture for more than four generations, and attracts more than 100,000 visitors a year. It was originally established in 1929 as a holiday camp for Young Australia League on a 60 hectare (150 acre) property at Roleystone, half an hour from Perth.

The garden features many cool climate exotic plantings not commonly grown in Western Australia, set amongst 120 acres of natural bushland. Situated in a deep shaded valley running north/south and protected from the harsh drying winds, it boasts a rich loamy soil, making its horticultural characteristics quite different from those commonly found around Perth.

Overseen by a volunteer foundation, Araluen Park aims to create a unique, world class botanic park of great natural beauty and tranquillity accessible to and remembered by all who visit.

The garden is managed by nine gardening staff who stage festivals and special events throughout the gardening year. During the winter months, camellias and azaleas are abundant, followed by magnificent magnolias, glorious tree peonies and bulbs in the spring, including more than 100,000 tulips. Another highlight is the glorious blooms produced by the 2000 rose bushes in the warmer months.

As a garden, Araluen Botanic Park is very aware of their responsibility and impact on the environment, as the Canning River - one of the tributaries to the Swan River - originates in the park. The property includes the historic Chalet Healey Restaurant, an authentic Canadian wood cabin built in the 1930's, and the Roundhouse Gift Shop.

Araluen Botanic Park is located at 362 Croyden Road, Roleystone Western Australia, and is open daily from 9am to 6pm.

For more information visit www.araluenbotanicpark.com.au or telephone (08) 9496 1171.

Sudden Impact for Roses

Fantastic for all flowering plants... not just roses!
Now also endorsed by the South West Rose Group of WA.



Morning Star Estate



The Morning Star Estate is amongst the Mornington Peninsula's premier restaurant and function venues. Set amidst 22 acres of exquisite gardens and 30 acres of vines, the century-old mansion, 'Morning Star' enjoys panoramic views of Port Phillip Bay stretching from the Bellarine Peninsula to Melbourne.

Morning Star Estate was purchased by Judy Barrett in 1992. Judy is a lady with a vision, and combined with her energy and passion has made that vision a reality. The property was built in 1867 by Francis Gillett and was originally named Sunnyside. For a period of time the property was home to Gillett and his successors, until it was purchased in 1932 and became the Morning Star Boys Training Farm for the rehabilitation of 'delinquent boys'. By 1976 the property was once again a private concern, operating as a horse stud until the 1980's. In the five years prior to Judy purchasing the property it fell into a state of neglect, however she was able to see a happy future for this once lovely home and garden. Immediately plans were put in place to begin the long path back to, and beyond its original appearance.

Today, Morning Star is a unique venue for weddings, conferences and private functions. Judy also hosts a number of public events, including musical festivals, fund-raising concerts and open air opera. Visitors have the opportunity to enjoy a leisurely luncheon,

morning or afternoon tea, or perhaps an evening meal watching the sun set over Port Phillip Bay. Accommodation is also available in the boutique hotel, and another favourite attraction is the maritime gallery - always an enjoyable visit.

Morning Star now features a vineyard of 38 acres, and a garden which has over 50,000 roses, with almost 400 varieties grown. Judy has almost single-handedly carried out this work. The sunken garden, emerald lawns and fountain are all testimony to a lady who'll get out and get things happening.

Looking after such an area is a labour of love for Judy. "I'd heard wonderful reports about Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses" said Judy, "and was determined that I must trial it for myself. When I have so many roses to care for it is so important that their health and vigour are maintained, and to this end Sudden Impact for Roses has been just what I was looking for. Feeding spring, summer and autumn will keep my roses at their peak, and I am now looking forward to using the Seamungus in winter as part of the Neutrog feeding programme. Keeping the soil healthy during the dormant season will ensure a great head start in the spring."

With over 10,000 visitors annually, why not put aside a day or weekend to discover first hand why people love going to the Morning Star Estate. It is located at 1 Sunnyside Road in Mt Eliza, Victoria, and is open daily from 10.00am. For further information visit www.morningstarestate.com.au or telephone (03) 9787 7760.

Eden Park



Eden Park, a magnificent historic mansion, was built in 1891 as the residence for one of Adelaide's wealthy merchants Thomas Scarfe.

Pre-dating the house, the gardens and grounds date from 1840, with several trees planted in the 1850's, which still remain as magnificent specimens today. It was purchased by the Government in the 1940's, and since then has had varied institutional uses, including sleeping quarters for nurses from the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and as a conference centre. Since 1993, Eden Park has been part of the grounds of Marryatville High School, now used by senior students.

This heritage-listed building and grounds were in a poor state when the school took over, however significant restoration works have taken place both internally and externally, and in 2005 the exterior of the building was substantially repaired and painted. It is a credit to the students that this fragile building has been cared for in such a way as to preserve its wonderful character.



For over seven years, the Eden Park Garden has been carefully upgraded and tended by a group of dedicated parents, staff and community volunteers known as the Eden Park Garden Restoration Group. This beautiful garden features exotic plants including herbs and scented plants, as well as an indigenous area planted along the First Creek watercourse

running through the property. One of the joint volunteer co-ordinators and past school parents, Penny Ruddock is the garden's designer. "It is great to see the students interacting with this beautiful outdoor space," Penny commented, "and the increased seating throughout the garden encourages its use as an integral part of the students' day to day school lives. We are keen to see the garden continue to develop, with increased community use. For the volunteers, working in the garden is recreation, as the garden is a very peaceful place."

More than 1500 visitors attended Eden Park in April this year when the garden was open to the public as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme.

The garden volunteers have been using Neutrog's Rapid Raiser for the past five years, and more recently they have used Sudden Impact for Roses on the 100 rose bushes planted throughout the garden. The results have been very positive with fertile soil, healthy growth and fewer pests and disease problems. "Even renowned Adelaide rosarian, Eric Trimper, was very impressed with the size and vigour of the roses", Penny said.

Sudden Impact for Lawns



Great for all non-flowering plants... not just lawns! (hedges, palms and ferns).

Valley Orchids



First established over 40 years ago, Valley Orchids is probably the most well known cymbidium nursery in the world. Since this time, they have been largely responsible for the huge developments made in the modern cymbidiums, in which South Australia as a state has also been a world leader. Graham Morris purchased the business in 1999, and has continued to develop and market new and superior varieties.

The nursery is predominantly a wholesale nursery, supplying pot plants, usually in flower, to wholesalers, retailers and hobbyists around the world. Tissue culture is a large part of the business, and they supply flasks and small plants to other growers' worldwide, including Holland, Canada and China. A recent contract sees them supplying plant material to produce up to 750,000 plants per year to one of the largest commercial orchid growers in the world, based in China.

Their new 1.5 hectare location at McLaren Vale, south of Adelaide, will allow Graham, his wife Linda and their son Barry to double their production over the next couple of years, making them the largest orchid grower in South Australia, and one of the largest in Australia. They have 11,000m² (approximately one hectare) under shadecloth, which as Graham says is "about the size of the playing surface of a football field. We carry over 200,000 plants, with huge numbers of seedlings or clones in the laboratory."

Graham started growing orchids as a youth, and 45 years later is still passionate about them. He continues to be an active member

of orchid clubs and loves to help promote orchid culture to the general public. "Orchids are such exquisite, exotic looking plants that people develop an emotional desire to grow them," Graham said, "yet lots of people have challenges getting them to perform as they should." To help with this, Valley Orchids conduct regular beginners workshops prior to and during the cymbidium flowering season. Last year up to 70 people attended each of these workshops, where they were shown how to get plants to flower and how best to grow them. The feedback from those who attended these workshops has been very positive.

Graham's advice for growing great orchids is to:

- Choose plants that are fast growing, and grow and flower easily.
- Give them the right growing conditions, with good quality light and humidity created by regular watering.
- Finally, feed them well to get them to flower well.

Graham has been using Neutrog fertiliser for the past three years with great results. "We fill the bark level of our pots to 25mm below the surface, add a small handful of fertiliser per plant, and cover with bark on top. We have had great results with both Rapid Raiser and more recently Seamungus. There is a noticeable difference between treated and untreated plants with improved growth, which enables plants to produce more flowers at a younger age."

To find out more about Valley Orchids visit www.valleyorchids.com.au



South West Rose Group of Western Australia

From left, Kevin Molloy President, Kathy Travers Treasurer and Keven Jones Secretary, in the front garden of Kathy and Graham Travers home in Australind near Bunbury, WA.

The Southern Branch of the Rose Society of Western Australia has joined the long list of both Australian and overseas Rose Societies to endorse and recommend 'Sudden Impact for Roses'.



This relatively new group of passionate rosarians was formed following

preliminary discussions with the Rose Society of Western Australia in late 2000, and officially started in February 2001. Since then, with a friendly country atmosphere and very positive feedback, the group has grown rapidly to nearly 100 members. Based in Bunbury, 2.5 hours south of Perth, the group draws members from a wide radius of more than 200km. Current President Kevin Molloy, who joined the group 6 months after it started and has served several years as both Vice President, and who is now President, says "As a group, we wish to encourage and extend the cultivation of the rose in an informal and social setting, while growing and enjoying the rose - 'the queen of flowers'. Our group tries to arrange a very proactive calendar of meetings, excursions, practical demonstration and garden visits.

Before endorsing 'Sudden Impact for Roses', the members all trialed this premium rose fertiliser and extensive surveying was undertaken. The responses

were positive on a number of different levels, with members experiencing improved bloom quality and number, increased health and vitality of growth and reduced disease problems. These results were noticeable despite water restrictions.

Kevin and his wife Sarah, who grow around 300 roses in their own garden, said "Old roses have come to life, with new growth and lush leaves, not to mention the flowers. Disease was also not as prevalent in roses fed with Sudden Impact for Roses, as was seen in the control group. We are glad to recommend such a great product that aids with our aims of rose growing."

This latest endorsement for Sudden Impact for Roses adds to the long list of Australian Rose Society endorsements including Rose Societies in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and The Gold Coast. Its use in all major Rose Gardens throughout Australia adds further credence, as do endorsements from overseas, including the Western Cape Rose Society and the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in South Africa.

Fertilising in Winter for explosive results in Spring

Fertilisers should do more than just feed a plant - they should feed the soil, and by virtue of having healthy soil, we have healthy plants. Recognising this, people are taking a more balanced and holistic view of feeding their gardens.

Quality organic based fertilisers, such as the range produced by Neutrog, do just that. For best results, organic based fertilisers need to be applied on a regular basis, as recommended by Neutrog's Year Round Fertiliser Program. Developed, trialed and proven by experts, they nourish and improve the soil by adding vital nutrients and organic matter, improving soil structure and drainage, and encouraging earthworm and soil microbial activity. These factors are vital to maintaining optimal plant health, which in turn has the effect of reducing plant pest and disease problems.

As well as having a Multi-Purpose Year Round Fertilising Program for all garden plants and lawns, Neutrog also have specialist products that are designed specifically to give optimal results with a range of garden results.

Flowering Plants & Roses

Sudden Impact for Roses is the best possible fertiliser for all flowering plants when applied in

spring, summer and autumn. In winter however, optimal results will be achieved by applying Seamungus. This seaweed based plant tonic will encourage root growth, revitalise plants and improve overall plant health when applied in winter, leading to a more exuberant flush of growth and flowers when the weather starts to warm up in spring.

Natives

Seamungus is the fertiliser of choice for all native plants, and can be used once in each season throughout the year, including winter.

Non-Flowering Plants & Lawns

Sudden Impact for Lawns is the premium lawn fertiliser that will give you the best results from your lawns, as well as non-flowering plants such as palms, together with ferns and conifers, leafy vegetables and herbs. It is best applied in spring, summer and autumn. In winter apply Blade Runner to lawns, and Seamungus to non flowering plants.

Seamungus

- Ideal for winter fertilising for all plants, particularly roses
- An ideal planting food for all plants, including bare-rooted roses
- A great health food tonic to revitalise any plant throughout the year, including natives.



Your chance to judge the roses at the public judging in the Botanic Gardens 21-23 October 2006. Free admission, plant & product stalls.



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Neutrog Australia Pty Ltd
Mines Road, Kanmantoo
South Australia 5252
T (08) 8538 5077
F (08) 8538 5094
E info@neutrog.com.au
W www.neutrog.com.au

For stockists freecall 1800 65 66 44 or visit www.neutrog.com.au