

feedback

winter/spring 2008

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Royal Botanic Gardens Trust

In the heart of Sydney is an oasis of greenery and colour. Established in 1816 by Governor Macquarie and covering some 30 hectares, the Royal Botanic Gardens is home to the oldest scientific institution in Australia. Today the Royal Botanic Gardens undertakes a myriad of activities including guided walks, community education and outreach programmes, international scientific research, collection management at the National Herbarium and a place to simply unwind and relax.

The Botanic Gardens Trust is custodian of four estates - the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Domain, Mount Annan Botanic Garden and Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. Each of the three botanic gardens has a rich aboriginal history with the Royal Botanic Gardens telling the story of the first European settlements in Australia.



Located on the side of an undulating piece of land with breathtaking views of Sydney Harbour and the city skyline, the Royal Botanic Gardens was the first area of cultivated land on the Australian continent, and is now home to an outstanding collection of plants from Australia and overseas.

Sydney's recreational parkland - the Domain - surrounds the Royal Botanic Gardens. In colonial times this land was the Governor's buffer of privacy between his residence and the penal colony. By 1831, roads and paths were



constructed through the Domain to allow public access. Since that time it has remained a place for the people.

Mount Annan Botanic Garden is the Australian (native) plant garden of the Botanic Gardens Trust. It covers 410 hectares, making it the largest botanic garden in Australia. The plantings are designed to display the diversity of Australian flora, and will eventually include as many as 25,000 known plant species.

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is the cool-climate garden of the Botanic Gardens Trust. It covers 28 hectares, 1000 metres above sea level in the world heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains. The theme of this garden emphasises cool-climate plants from around the world, especially those from the Southern Hemisphere.

Neutrog Fertilisers were initially introduced to the Botanic Gardens Trust by Mr. Graham

Wright, then President of the Rose Society of NSW, who was involved in the planning of the Palace Rose Garden. This garden, which now contains around 1800 roses, is situated on the site of the massive Garden Palace that was built to house the Great International Exhibition of 1879 to 1880, which was totally destroyed by fire in 1882. Traditional design elements such as hedges and perennials are used in conjunction with standard, weeping and bush roses.

After successfully trialing **Sudden Impact** for **Roses & Seamungus** in the Palace Rose Garden along with Seamungus on the natives at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, Neutrog was approached with a view to sponsor the Botanic Gardens Trust. Consequently, a 3 year sponsorship agreement was signed in May 2008, whereby Neutrog would supply its fertilisers to each of the gardens managed by the Trust. This sponsorship is in



keeping with Neutrog's philosophy of supporting community-based gardens, and sits proudly alongside many other such beautiful gardens including the Old Parliament House Gardens in Canberra, Flemington Racecourse Rose Garden, Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Geelong Botanic Gardens and the famous Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens in South Africa.



The Manager of Horticulture at Mount Annan, Daniel Bishop says of **Seamungus** "Great product! One that we will continue to use", and added "Neutrog's organic range offers an ideal product as it is suitable for native plants. We feel that by informing the public about good product developments, we continue to inspire the appreciation and conservation of plants, which is our mission".

Definitely worth a visit, the Royal Botanic Gardens are very user-friendly, with a kiosk, wheelchair access; catering for weddings and functions, and signs even encouraging visitors to 'Please Walk on the Grass'. The public programs at each garden are both enjoyable and informative, and are designed to inspire the appreciation and conservation of plants. Over 20,000 school children visit the gardens each year, and courses, workshops, free tours and talks are offered to everyone. Further information can be gained from www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

National Rose Trial Garden



MR DEAN STRINGER, TRIAL GARDEN CO-ORDINATOR

Started in 1996 and the first of its kind in Australia, the National Rose Trial Garden is a joint venture between the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide (where it is located), the National Rose Society of Australia and the rose industry. Its purpose is to help the rose industry determine which roses are best suited to Australian conditions by assessing their performance in a controlled trial ground. The trials are for roses not yet commercially released in Australia.

Most roses sold in Australia are raised by rose breeders in the Northern Hemisphere in a very different climate. Some roses which do well there perform disappointingly here, but occasionally the reverse is true. Being able to pre-determine the roses which will succeed in Australian conditions ensures a degree of certainty not previously available, and a significant economic advantage for the Australian rose industry.



The National Rose Trial Garden also encourages the development and growth of the Australian Rose Breeders by providing them with the opportunity to compare and assess their roses on an international scale against the world leaders in rose breeding.

Each trial is conducted over two growing seasons, and all plants are treated equally with regard to horticultural practices – this of course includes regular applications of Neutrog's **Sudden**

Impact for Roses and Seamungus.

Depending on the type of rose, each entry consists of three, four or six plants, identified by a code number only; all other details being known only to the Trial Co-ordinator (well known rosarian

Mr Dean Stringer) and the agent responsible for the entry.

The roses are judged by a panel of 10 experienced rosarians who assess them 6 times over the first growing season (October – May) and 8 times during the second.

Each rose is scored out of a total of 110 with points awarded for flowering (30), habit and shape (30), health, vigour and hardiness (20), pest and disease tolerance (20) and perfume (10) – the latter is only assessed twice per year. The results are announced publicly at the end of the trial, and the best performing roses receive awards – a Gold Medal (above 75%), a Silver Medal (73 – 74.99%), a Bronze Medal (70 – 72.99%) or a Certificate of Merit (68 – 69.99%).

Hence consumers can be confident that roses which have been awarded either a medal or a Certificate of Merit will grow well in Australian climatic conditions.

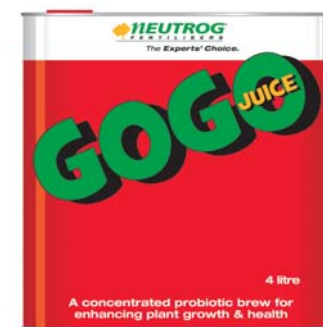


Roses are also assessed by the general public to gauge their popularity through an annual event, which gives a good insight for rose breeders, rose growers and retailers as to the types of roses which the public like. This year the public judging is taking place 10am to 4pm on the 18th and 19th of October at the trial ground within the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide.

For further information, including pictures of past rose medallists visit:

www.nationalrosetrialgarden.net.au

GOGO Juice™ is coming!!



Get first hand, hot off the press information direct from Neutrog regarding its products, their applications and any new developments taking place such as the exciting new product currently being developed – GOGO Juice.

As its name suggests, GOGO Juice is a revolutionary, high performance, biological liquid product, soon to be released. To be the first to find out, register your email address at www.neutrog.com.au or alternatively email Erica at erica@neutrog.com.au and ask to be registered on Neutrog's update list.



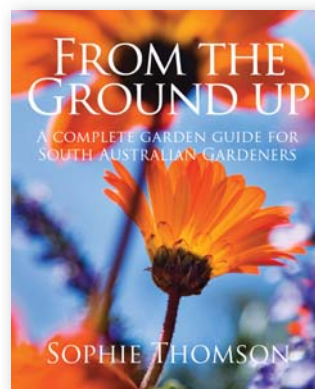
From the Ground Up

'From the Ground Up' is a complete and comprehensive garden guide specifically developed for all South Australian gardeners – from novices to experts.

Packed full of magnificent photographs, **From the Ground Up** will allow you to visually identify everything from the best plants

for your garden to the pests and diseases causing your plants grief.

Written by well-known South Australian ABC Gardening Australia presenter Sophie Thomson and published by Neutrog, this book is the fore-runner for similar such books specific to each state.



Five years in the making and a name change along the way, 'From the Ground Up' (formerly 'Growing Pains'), will be officially launched on November 13, and will be available from all good book stores and garden centres.

For those who wish to register for a personally signed copy please visit www.neutrog.com.au or freecall 1800 65 66 44.

The Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) follows suit

Following successful product trials, the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) has joined the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia in endorsing Neutrog's most recently released product **Strike Back for Orchids**.



The Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) is the oldest Cymbidium Club in Australia and was the first single genera Orchid Society established in NSW. The Club was formed in the early 1980's and now has 120 active members. The members meet once a month at Lakemba, and invite

anyone who is interested in growing orchids to join the group.

For information on growing orchids or to join the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) visit www.ccansw.com.au

Containing the full range of plant nutrients, **Strike Back for Orchids** is ideal for all potted flowering and fruiting plants – not just orchids.



The National Rose Society and Heritage Roses in Australia join the fold



The National Rose Society of Australia (www.rose.org.au) and Heritage Roses in Australia (www.heritage.rose.org.au) have both recently advised Neutrog of their decision to endorse Neutrog's **Sudden Impact for Roses**.

Sudden Impact for Roses now has 8 such Rose Society endorsements in Australia, and a further 3 in South Africa – an impressive list.



The National Rose Society of Australia consists of delegates from each of the State Rose Societies – SA, VIC, NSW, QLD & WA. These rose societies have a combined membership in excess of 3000 people.

Heritage Roses in Australia is made up of 20 regional groups with over 1300 members located around Australia.



Sudden Impact for Roses is ideal for all flowering and fruiting plants – not just roses.



Flemington Racecourse Rose Garden Upgrade



Last year an incredible 7000 roses were pulled out of the famous Flemington Racecourse rose garden, which was part of an extensive overhaul of the racecourse grounds. It was the first major renovation since races began at the track in 1840 – five years after Melbourne was established.

Even though a number of roses are replaced each year, many of the roses removed were very old. The roses are systematically pruned over a nine week period during winter. In recent years the number has grown from 12,000 to over 15,000 – Flemington laying claim to the impressive title of being one of the largest public rose gardens in the Southern Hemisphere.

Today the roses are flourishing with the help of **Sudden Impact for Roses** and **Seamungus**. Terry Freeman, Curator of the grounds, reports "Everyone comments that they have never seen the roses look as healthy as what they do at the moment. They were planted last year in June, and fed with **Sudden Impact for Roses** in September, November and January. We have just finished pruning, and were amazed at the growth, especially considering they are only still young plants". The new roses have just been given their winter feed of **Seamungus**, and by the time the Spring Racing Carnival rolls around in November, they will again be spectacular.

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