

The Pooh Bah Times



Hello to all of our Pooh Bah Club members and welcome to our June newsletter - now called 'The Pooh Bah Times'. We always look forward to contacting you with what's happening in the garden world, and we love receiving your feedback, so please don't hesitate to give us a call, send us an email or comment on our social media pages.

In many regions we've had some of that glorious wet stuff from the sky which cheers all gardeners and farmers immensely. Let's hope for plenty more.

For many years, gardeners believed that they only had to fertilise in Spring and put mulch down in the Summer to get the best results in their garden, however during our 30-plus years we have challenged that concept, and have since proven otherwise. Even individual experts and those from specialist plant groups like the Rose Societies now recommend fertilising year-round in order for plants to perform at their best. Interestingly, we have also seen a change in people's practices over the years to incorporate year-round fertilising.

When you stop and think about it, like humans and animals, plants also require regular feeding throughout the year - at least once in each season (or even better, feed monthly), including Winter. Having happy, healthy and well-nourished plants that are more resistant to pests, diseases and environmental stress is going to make you a happier gardener too.

This year our Autumn was particularly warm, so the soils are also warm as we head into Winter - this translates into the perfect conditions for getting some action in the soil! Even though many trees and shrubs are bare at this time of the year and it seems that not much is happening in the garden, there's a lot going on below-ground, and plants benefit immensely from an application of an organic fertiliser, which sets your garden up for the following year.

As mentioned above, a common misconception of many gardeners is to only mulch during the hot weather in order to protect plants from heat stress and to suppress weeds, however there are a huge number of benefits of applying it in Winter. Here's what microbiologist Dr. Uwe has to say...



"There is a raft of reasons why you should apply mulch in Winter - the most obvious are weed suppression and of course regulating soil temperature by placing an insulating blanket of organic matter down. However, a good organic mulch such as Whoflungdung will also encourage earthworms to come to the surface, thereby aerating your soil and moving nutrients deeper in the soil profile - your plants will get that benefit as soon as it warms up. If you have sandy soils, applying Whoflungdung in Winter will give your soil microbes time to break it down and get some organic material into the soil, which will improve your water and nutrient-holding capacity, which is often lacking in sandy conditions. If you're on a block with a slope, then mulch applied in Winter can help prevent erosion from heavy rain, as the rain needs to percolate through the mulch - an added benefit is that you end up with less runoff and more water absorbed into the soil".

Additionally, by applying Seamungus to your entire garden now, the soil will be taking in all of that seaweed and chicken poo goodness, but what does that mean in real terms for your garden? It means that as soon as winter slows down and we move into Spring that everything in the garden is ready to flourish, as there is an instant level of nutrition that the plants will be able to use. The results are that impressive! Remember your GOGO Juice too - we can never have too many beneficial bacteria in our soils, so spread the bugs!

Once you've spread your Seamungus, look at all of the other great things to do in your garden - it's certainly a way to warm up...pruning, trimming back, tidying of garden beds. One of the benefits of a bare'ish garden is that you can see what you're looking at, which makes it a perfect time to decide what can stay and what needs to go, or what needs to be moved. There are so many delicious winter veggies to plant, as well as enjoying a wander in your garden centre and perhaps selecting a few new roses, fruit trees or an eye-catching ornamental.

Coming up

- Growing great veggies
- Neutrog's new home gardener booklet
- Michelle Endersby - sandy soils & Whoflungdung
- Farewell to rose legend, David Ruston
- Meet the Pooh Bah's! - a quick animation
- This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum
- Farewell to Harry Harrison
- The Biological Approach - 'Chemical vs Organic' by Dr. Uwe Stroeher
- What's Brewing at Neutrog
- International Update - South Africa
- Sue & Jim Smith's retirement project
- Featured product - GOGO Juice - the probiotic for your soil
- New Product - 'CatCanDoo' premium kitty litter
- Around the Grounds - Green crops at the National Rose Trial Garden
- Research and Development - Trichoderma fungi
- Sue Wright - Whoflungdung
- The Expert's Choice
- Australian Plants Society of Victoria endorse Bush Tucker
- Year-Round Fertilising Programme for Winter

Growing great veggies

When you walk into a garden centre you're confronted with a huge range of fertilisers - granules, liquids, pellets, foliar sprays, slow release - the list goes on. So what do you choose and why?

Different vegetables require and remove from the soil differing nutrients. For example, onions and radish remove sulphur from the soil, and others such as spinach, beets and broccoli remove iron and in many cases calcium. Some fruits such as peaches, plums and apples remove significant amounts of potassium from the soil, and an apple tree will take about 75 grams of potassium every harvest, which is a fair amount that needs to be replaced.

In essence, when the plants deplete these nutrients from the soil, unless they are replaced, your next growing season yields will be lower. In addition, your harvest may have low levels of these nutrients as well – and we know that the produce we grow is part of our diet because they contain these nutrients for good health (along with fibre and antioxidants).

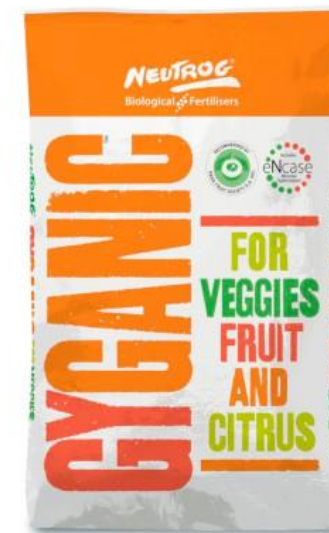
Rather than using a multi-purpose fertiliser for your vegetables and fruit trees, a specialised fertiliser is the ideal way to replace lost nutrients. For example, a general-purpose fertiliser won't necessarily have the level of sulphur, calcium or iron to replace what is needed in a veggie patch, which is why a specialised fertiliser like Gyganic for Veggies Fruit and Citrus is more beneficial.

About Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus - Neutrog initially developed Gyganic for the commercial horticultural and agricultural industries. We also got some expert help from the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia to trial and make recommendations. So essentially it was designed for farmers, and we now have a range of commercial growers regularly using Gyganic as their fertiliser regime.

Gyganic starts with an organic base, which is our aged, composted chicken litter. To this we add things like composted seaweed, humic material and of course a number of nutrients including iron, manganese and sulphates – all which makes for a nutrient-balanced fertiliser ideal for your fruit trees and vegetables.

Gyganic has been specifically developed to enhance uniform size and quality of fruit, flower and vegetable production. It has the full range of nutrients in an organic form. Microbes have been added to Gyganic's unique organic base of manure, seaweed, kelp, fish, humates, lucerne and rock phosphate to break down these organic materials, ensuring the full range of organic nutrients are available when applied.

Gyganic is available from Bunnings, Mitre 10, Home Timber & Hardware, Stratco and all good garden centres.



Gavin from Bunnings in Yarrowonga has been creating a lot of interest in-store with these huge pumpkins he's grown.

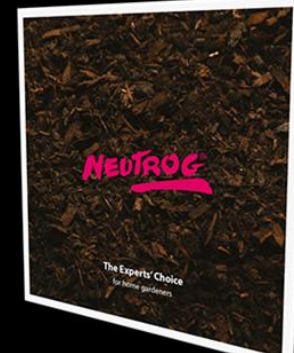
"Giant pumpkins can be quite a scientific plant to grow and to have success with" says Gavin. "My main feeding programme is to prepare the soil with Seamungus. I then fertilise throughout the season with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus, and a few other tricks I've learned over the years."



From little things, big things grow

To celebrate our 30 years (which was actually a year ago) we are excited to release our electronic booklet, which takes the reader on a journey from our humble beginnings in 1988 to being recognised throughout Australia and beyond as manufacturers of innovative, premium, high performance, biological fertilisers.

As Neutrog just turned 30, we thought it was time to tell our story...



Click here to read

Michelle Endersby - sandy soils & Whoflungdung

Michelle Endersby is a painter of roses and Vice President of the Rose Society of Victoria. Frequently called upon to talk about roses to community groups, she is also a regular guest on the gardening program 'Vision Australia Radio'.

On awakening from a coma following emergency brain surgery, Michelle was inspired by a vision of a light-filled rose garden. Her expressive portraits of roses have since been exhibited both in Australia and New York. She writes numerous rose articles for journals including the 'Botanic News', 'The Victorian Rose News' and the 'Australian Rose Annual', and has recently made a foray into writing fiction and is a finalist in the Audrey Daybook Short Story Prize 2019.

Michelle also has a monthly 'Art, Gardens and Always Roses' email newsletter - you can subscribe via Michelle's website at www.michelleendersbyart.com.



When we caught up with Michelle at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, she mentioned her success with Whoflungdung and her sandy soils. Here is her wonderful feedback...

"I live in Bonbeach which is in the sand-belt region south-east of Melbourne. Our soil is remnants of old sand dunes and silt from the Carrum-Carrum swamp. Whilst easy to dig, this soil tends to be hydrophobic with water running off the garden beds and very fast-draining, requiring frequent watering as well as being naturally poor in nutrients. Roses grown in this soil tend to grow very slowly with smaller and less frequent blooms than those grown in richer soils with greater water retention and nutrient-holding potential.

Using Neutrog's Whoflungdung mulch on my roses in this sandy soil has been a real game-changer for me. At last I am able to give them a decent, long-lasting watering, and the nutrients are finally getting to the plants. My flower size has been larger and I have observed greater new growth and water shoot development".

"The ease of applying the mulch is also a big plus for me. Previously I used bales of pea straw which were a real struggle to pull apart and apply neatly, but the Whoflungdung is so easy to put around under the roses and it is a really good-looking mulch too.

When I water it in it's so satisfying to see the tea-coloured liquid soaking in and immediately providing the plants with goodness. And mulching my roses in pots with Whoflungdung is really easy, and I've found it keeps the pots from drying out as much".



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.

Most significantly, Whoflungdung reduces, if not eliminates 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.

Whoflungdung is available from good garden centres, Mitre 10, Home Timber & Hardware, Stratco and by special order from Bunnings. Additionally, if your local Mitre 10 store doesn't have it in stock, they can order it in for you.



Farewell to rose legend, David Ruston

Sadly, well-known rose grower David Ruston passed away recently. He will be remembered for his hard work, community involvement and of course, roses. Mr Ruston wasn't only an icon in his home town of Renmark in South Australia, but he also shared his knowledge and expertise globally.

From his teenage years, David was a passionate exponent of roses, beginning with extending his father's rose plantings of 500 to 3,000 bushes by 1968 and the eventual 50,000 bushes covering 11 hectares. This world acclaimed garden, the largest private collection of roses in the southern hemisphere, has been officially recognised as "The National Collection of Roses".

David also went to many Australian cities and towns donating his time and flowers for a variety of charities. His unique style of arranging magnificent displays in memorable containers at breakneck speed while entertaining the audience with a continuous flow of knowledgeable and oftentimes hilarious comments made him a much sought-after keynote speaker.

He joined his first rose society, the Rose Society of Victoria, in 1948 at the age of 18, and began exhibiting roses soon after. He became the inaugural president of Heritage Roses in Australia in 1986 and the president of the World Federation of Rose Societies from 1991 to 1994.

David achieved worldwide recognition with rose awards including the T.A. Stewart Memorial award in 1966, the Australian Rose award in 1982, the World Federation of Rose Societies Silver Pin in 1988 and the Gold Medal in 2004, the Dean Ross Memorial award 1997 and the most prestigious rose award of all, the Dean Hole Medal in 1994 from the Royal National Rose Society. In 1984 David received an Order of Australia for Services to Horticulture.



*Mr. Ruston at the unveiling of the Ruston statue in Renmark
October 2010*



We've created this short animation video to introduce you to Digby, Delvine, Shovelle and Scoop – our Pooh Bah family. Neutrog's vision is to be the most connected and trusted fertiliser brand in the world, and to do this we encourage all gardeners to join Neutrog's Pooh Bah Club.

Simply click on the image (left) and watch the 90 second animation - turn up the sound!



Join the Pooh Bah Club

If you're reading a forwarded copy
you can subscribe here too!

This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum

Under guidance from the Rare Fruit Society of SA, Seamungus is being applied to the fruit trees in the Kanmantoo Rare Fruit Arboretum, and then followed up with an application of GOGO Juice. It's pleasing to see that after Whooflungdung was spread a month ago, the Arboretum now looks much cleaner - and no more weeds!

Certified organic by the ACO, Seamungus is available in 20kg bags for commercial growers, 15kg bags from Bunnings and smaller pails from nurseries and hardware stores. Seamungus is a soil and plant conditioner, manufactured by combining the very best of composted raw materials – seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure. It is also a health tonic and planting food for all plants including natives, lawns and bare-rooted roses. It undergoes a unique composting process that is specifically developed to stabilise the nutrients, maximise nutrient availability and to ensure the product is free of any parasites, pathogens and weed seeds.

Most importantly, the resultant product retains the microbiology necessary for a 'living' product. Whilst Seamungus contains a wide range and good levels of plant nutrients, it is perhaps the additional unique properties contained within seaweed that provide the catalyst for providing higher yields of sustained quality. Seamungus will help your plants resist heat, drought and frost, along with pests and disease. It will retain up to 70% of its own weight in moisture – significantly increasing the soil's ability to hold onto water and nutrients.



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.

Farewell to Harry Harrison

We were saddened to hear about the passing of Harry Harrison, who died on 7th April.

Apart from a long association with Neutrog, Harry (pictured here with Sophie Thomson) had an incredibly diverse range of interests and achievements, from dogs, cattle and horses, to community gardens, frogs, worms, soil microbes, fruit trees, permaculture, wine, opera, a wide range of music, regeneration of the earth as well as a caring friend to so many people, who are thankful to have known him in one way or another.

Harry played a big part in the establishment of the Rare Fruit Arboretum at Kanmantoo, and the development of our veggie, fruit and citrus fertiliser 'Gyganic'.



The Biological Approach

Chemical vs Organic - by Dr. Uwe Stroehler

As a gardener, you may have a good understanding of how microbes benefit soil and plant health, but do you know how chemical fertilisers affect soil microbes?

Chemical fertilisers are good at making nutrients available to your plants as an instant hit, however they can shut down some of the soil biology. A good example is a beneficial fungi in the soil that traps and kills nematodes – fertilisers high in nitrogen actually turn off the killing mechanism so the fungi can no longer do their job and kill the nematodes.

Furthermore, the use of a high-nitrogen fertiliser will also shut down the ability of free-living bacteria to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere, thereby depriving the garden the benefit of these microbes. Improving soil structure and fixing carbon in the soil improves your soils' ability to hold onto nutrients, and opens up the soil to allow water and air to penetrate the roots. Achieving this is really only possible if you use an organic fertilising regime in combination with soil microbes...and some patience.

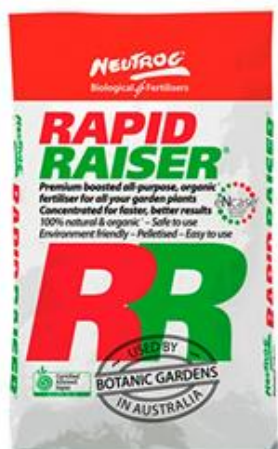


Organic fertilisers (especially when pelletised) release nutrients slowly depending on the rate at which microbes break these pellets down. This microbial breakdown is generally matched to the plant's requirements, i.e. faster when it is warm and moist, and slower in cold, very hot or dry conditions.

If you have good soil biology, then more often than not, your plants are tougher and more resistant to insect and pests anyway.



A chemical fertiliser & Neutrog's organic Rapid Raiser



A great way to start is to apply some compost to your soil and supplement this with an organic fertiliser such as Neutrog's Rapid Raiser or Seamungus – the reason being that most compost has low nitrogen levels, so it feeds the microbes but not your plants.

Both Rapid Raiser and Seamungus contain millions of microbes so they help in nutrient cycling and feeding the bacteria and fungi as well as your plants. Both products are also certified organic by the ACO. As a rule, you only need to put down about 100 grams per square metre about every 6 to 8 weeks. Both Seamungus and Rapid Raiser are available from all good garden centres.

Neutrog Radio

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



What's brewing at Neutrog

New warehouse & liquid storage facility

The site at Kanmantoo HQ has been cleared and cordoned off in preparation of our new 2000 square metre warehouse (right). Preliminary work has already commenced, and should be finished by July.

This site will also house the ten 10,000 litre stainless steel tanks to store our biological liquids including GOGO Juice, Seamungus, Sudden Impact for Roses and Strike Back for Orchids.



More room for more poo piles!

To make room for more manure composting piles, we have been using a 300-tonne excavator from the copper mine next door to level some land.

The black shadowed plateau (left) will be pushed into the section below it to provide us with an extra 3 hectares of land (you can see part of the mine in the photo as well, which closed down recently).

International Update

South Africa

Neutrog's association with Gromor in KwaZulu Natal and their state-of-the-art manufacturing facility has yielded a fantastic product which epitomizes the premium positioning of the Neutrog brand. South Africa is currently focusing on relaunching in the retail sector. Bryan Christopher – National Sales Manager of Gromor South Africa said *"It is a true privilege to be associated with the Neutrog brand – a brand which through Bounce Back became a household name across the country. We are starting by launching in both Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal, and the by the end of the year look at moving back into the Western Cape".*



L to R: Collin Holzhausen, Managing Director of Gromor, and Charles Bertram, Director, Neutrog South Africa.

Charles Bertram from Neutrog South Africa added *"First up was to make sure that Gromor could produce the high-quality product that South Africa had become used to. With substantial investment in their plant, they have produced a product which is of even higher quality than we had before. The second aspect was to see whether the brand still has traction, and with initial listings this has proven successful – to date we have had half a million Rands in sales despite launching at the end of season. The next phase will involve contacting the garden clubs, rose societies and parks to reintroduce the brand to these loyal advocates."*

In addition, Neutrog South Africa has launched online sales to reach those areas where Bounce Back is not currently available – this has already had some success. Based on research that 60% of fertiliser sales in Europe are now purchased online, this is an exciting introduction.

Sue & Jim Smith's retirement project

Sue and Jim Smith purchased their 5-acre property in Littlehampton in the Adelaide Hills six years ago - Sue was looking for something to keep Jim busy in his retirement.

Essentially a perfect blank canvas, Sue wanted to develop a garden with continuous colour in the form of camellias, roses, bulbs, irises, salvias and other perennials, using the borrowed landscape and making the garden an exciting space for their grandchildren to enjoy, with curving pathways and hiding places.



The front garden has a park-like feel with the addition of a woodland garden that has just been planted with daffodils, hydrangeas, camellias and perennials. The back is a rambling country style garden with some formal areas for added interest.

Sue and Jim started using Neutrog products four years ago. *"I purchased a bucket of Sudden Impact for Roses and now use it twice a year on my 500+ roses"* says Sue. *"We use Rapid Raiser as a general throw-it-everywhere type of fertiliser twice a year when it rains. We use Gyganic on our 40 fruit and nut trees, Kahoona on the camellias and Meatworks Blood'n'Bone on the vegetable garden. Jim loves his lawns and uses Sudden Impact for Lawns, Blade Runner and Upsurge at various times during year"*.

All new plants get a dose of Seamungus in the planting hole. Last year Sue started using GOGO Juice on her pots and has now bought some liquid Seamungus to take over from Seasol which she used for several years on her propagation pots.

"Last October we started using Whoflungdung on some of our rose beds – it's great for weed suppression, the blackbirds don't like the smell and it's fine enough to let the rain penetrate through to the soil when we eventually get some" says Sue. Future projects include a bridge at the end of the small lake, a bog garden, a meadow filled with flowers, a cutting garden and building part of an old ruin using stone from the original farm...and of course a lot more planting!



Featured product

GOGO Juice



Similar to taking a probiotic for your gut health, GOGO Juice does much the same for your soil, whether in the garden or in pots. Because GOGO Juice is a true probiotic, it allows bacteria and fungi to multiply within the soil. When you apply GOGO Juice, you are inoculating your soil with a wide range of bacteria and fungi designed to aid in the breakdown of organic matter. This process increases the nutrient cycling, which means that plants can take up nutrients that are normally trapped in soil or potting mix. Without GOGO Juice these nutrients may be locked away or released very slowly.

An added benefit of GOGO Juice is that it also contains biologically broken-down kelp, which provides stress protection for plants. The humates in GOGO Juice help to hold onto the vital soluble nutrients ensuring they are not lost to the plant. You can use GOGO Juice on all plant types regardless of how delicate they are. It is also fantastic to use for planting and raising seedlings and propagation.

GOGO Juice is unique, as it contains additives such as humates in the form of humic acid, which is designed to hold onto micronutrients which would normally leach out of the soil. Fish meal and fermented chicken litter compost that's been brewed for 6 weeks provides added nutrients for your plants.

As GOGO Juice combines the 'catalytic' power of the billions of beneficial bacteria along with the well-documented benefits of applying kelp, seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure, you are not only feeding your plants with all the goodness of a wide range of organic nutrients, but you are also providing your soil with the "workers" (beneficial bacteria) that assist in breaking down the organic matter, maximising the nutrients available to your plants.

GOGO Juice is available in a concentrated 1 litre bottle (makes 250 litres) from Bunnings, Mitre 10, Home Timber and Hardware, Stratco and most garden centres. Why not give your plants a boost of GOGO Juice this weekend? Your plants will love it!



LEFT: Spring onions treated with GOGO Juice versus untreated.
RIGHT: Roses treated with GOGO Juice now healthy enough to be rid of black spot.

Visit our Online Store for
Trial Packs, Sample Packs
and 'From the Ground Up' books
Click here to visit our Online Store
www.neutrog.com.au



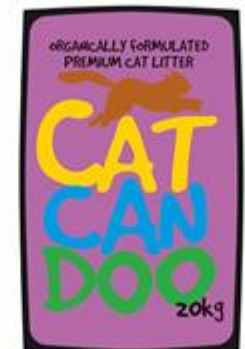
New product

CatCanDoo

Neutrog's R&D department is always busy...through our own efforts we have invented new and improved ways of composting, manufacturing and delivering fertilisers, but we also think outside the square to develop new and innovative products.

One such product is CatCanDoo - an organically formulated premium cat litter. Still in its development stage, CatCanDoo contains an inoculant additive to help nullify odour, which means your cat will think its poo doesn't stink! (not that they don't already, of course).

The inoculant contains beneficial bacteria which helps to decompose the litter, allowing it to be recycled afterward into the garden as a compost.



Around the Grounds

Green crops at the National Rose Trial Garden

The volunteers at the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia recently ploughed in the second green crop with the assistance of the Adelaide Botanic Garden staff in the resting beds of the Trial Garden.

During the resting year the beds of soil are replenished with two green crops - the first is Bio-mustard and the second is Japanese Millett. Each time these are ploughed in, Neutrog's Seamungus and GOGO Juice are applied.

"By using this programme of green crops and application of the Neutrog products we have found excellent soil rejuvenation to prevent rose soil sickness and maintain the correct pH of the soil for replanting of the new roses to be trialled over a two year period" says Merv Trimper, NRTGA Co-Ordinator.

People are invited to visit the National Rose Trial Gardens located in the Adelaide Botanic Garden - not only to see the new cultivars undergoing the two-year trial, but also to see and smell the rejuvenated soil in the resting beds. For more information on the National Rose Trial Gardens, visit www.nationalrosetrialgarden.net.au.



Research & Development

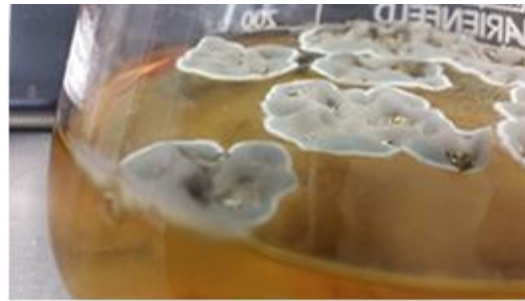
Trichoderma

Recent research being conducted by microbiologist Dr. Uwe Stroehler has been focussed around a species of fungi called Trichoderma.

The soil is an ecosystem with limited space and nutrients, and as such various bacteria, fungi and other soil organisms (whether beneficial or destructive) compete for these resources. One fungi that has been under the spotlight as a biological control agent is the Trichoderma species.

Trichoderma work in a number of ways, and are able to compete well within various soil types to keep out undesirable fungi and bacterial plant pathogens, thereby acting as an insurance and deterrent. They also take up space which could be occupied by a pathogenic microbe - which is akin to how a healthy dense lawn keeps out weeds.

Trichoderma form a mutualistic relationship with the plant's root system, thereby keeping the pathogen away. Trichoderma may control other fungi by parasitising them (basically destroying pathogenic fungal types), as well as producing compounds which can inhibit the growth of competing organisms. There is also good evidence to show that Trichoderma can induce the plant's own defence mechanisms.



Strains of Trichoderma that Dr. Uwe has populated in the Neutrog lab.

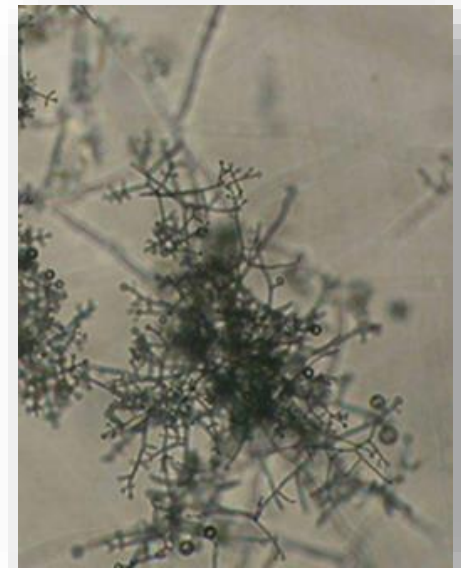


Dr. Uwe in the Neutrog lab

The mechanism by which Trichoderma can control pathogens and enhance the plant's survival are multi-faceted, but even with this arsenal, a single strain or species of Trichoderma will not be effective against all pathogens, or for that matter be suitable for all soil types.

As with most biological systems, a diversity of different species and strains of Trichoderma are more likely to give a broader application. Here at Neutrog HQ, Dr. Uwe is in the process of isolating and testing a range of Trichoderma species to check their ability to compete against a range of pathogens - in particular major fungal problem species such as Rhizoctonia and Sclerotinia, and the parasitic oomycote Pythium, which is a major plant pathogen.

It's early days yet, but we are well on our way to producing a biological control agent based on a number of Trichoderma strains in order to give the broadest protection possible to control pathogenic fungi and induce plant immunity in the broadacre market. It may also form part of our new up-coming hedge fertiliser, so stay tuned!



Trichoderma species

Sue Wright's impressive results with Neutrog's supermulch Whoflungdung

Sue Wright first heard about Whoflungdung when it was on Better Homes & Gardens a few weeks ago, and that it was available as a special order at Bunnings. "After sussing out where else it was available I was thrilled to find Waroona Rural Services in our small town in WA stocked it" said Sue.

"I went and bought 4 bags to give it a go on my veggie garden... well...amazing... you could almost see the difference overnight! The seedlings definitely raised their little heads and the chilli plants that had been struggling sat up and grew, and now I have more chillies than I know what to do with.

I was so impressed I then spread some more Whoflungdung on my rose bed...again amazing. Everything I have used it on has grown so quickly and lush and the soil underneath the mulch has improved dramatically in such a short time. There are now so many worms, and as our soil is more sand that earth, that is remarkable".



"I am now slowly doing the whole garden and getting 4-5 bags once a month. It might take me a little while as we have a quarter acre block, but I'm so happy with the results" says Sue. "I thought Neutrog was a new company until I realised that I have been using some of your other products for the past couple of years (Bush Tucker, Rooster Booster and GOGO Juice), and I've been really happy with the results from those too. I now have Sudden Impact for Lawns on order, so can't wait to use that.

I recommend Whoflungdung to all my fellow gardeners in my garden club, and to whoever else will listen. I am a first-time gardener and have only been at it for 2 and a half years - starting with a totally blank canvas in our forever home and with the help of your products, my garden looks as if it's been established for many years. I am converted."



 **BUSH TUCKER**

"Whilst native plants are great survivors in the garden, regular feeding helps them to thrive and reach their full potential. The benefits of doing so are not only enjoyed by yourself, by insects, bees and birds, but perhaps more importantly the environment benefits - the greater the plant growth, the more carbon is captured". Angus Stewart



Developed in
conjunction with
native plant expert
Angus Stewart
and soil scientist
Simon Leake

The Expert's Choice

Over the years Neutrog has collaborated with many plant societies that have trialled and subsequently endorsed some of our products.

With a combined membership base of over 10,000, some of these endorsing societies include the Rose Society of South Australia, The Orchid Club of South Australia, the Orchid Society of Western Australia, the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia, Camellias South Australia, Camellias Illawarra, the Cymbidium Orchid Club of SA, the Cymbidium Club of Australia, the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria, the Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA, the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA branch), the South West Rose Society, the National Rose Society of Australia, Heritage Roses in Australia, The Rose Society of WA, the Rose Society of NSW, the Rose Society of Victoria, the Queensland Rose Society and more recently the Australian Plants Society of Victoria.

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

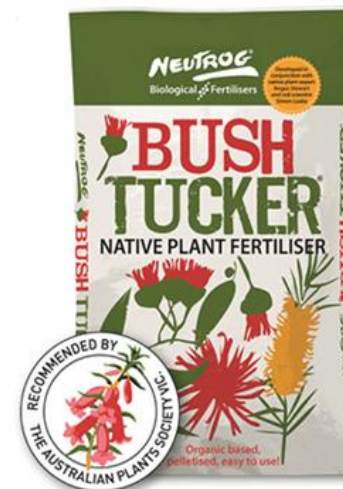


Neutrog is pleased to announce an endorsement from the Australian Plants Society of Victoria for its native plant fertiliser...

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, native plant expert and breeder, author and former host of ABC TV's Gardening Australia.



Year-Round Fertilising Programme for Winter



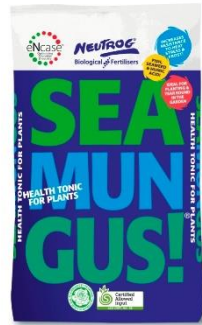
Year round fertilising for year round health

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.

No. 1 garden tip for Winter

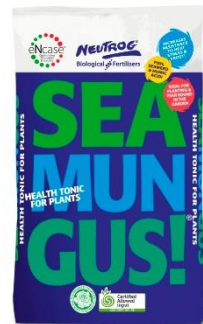
Apply Seamungus to your entire garden. The seaweed will strengthen the cell walls of your plants, therefore helping them cope with winter stress – particularly frost.



Roses

It's nearly rose pruning time! If you need 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.

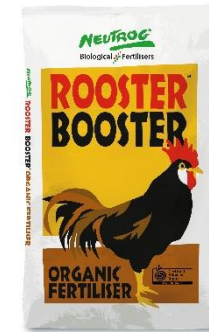
Once you've pruned your roses, give them their Winter feed of Seamungus, and be ready to feed with Sudden Impact for Roses in Spring at the first sign of new season's growth. Don't forget if you're planting new or re-positioned roses to put some Seamungus in the hole.



Planting

Winter is the perfect time for planting!

Use Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Rooster Booster for any new plantings. 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.



Flowering Plants

This winter, give your flowering plants a feed of Seamungus and water in well with GOGO Juice - you will be rewarded for it in the Spring!

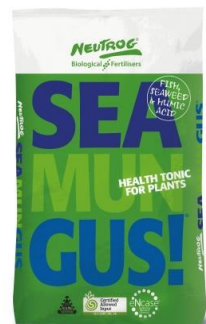
Keep your verandas, patios and decks vibrant with winter colour. Polyanthus are always reliable - they come in the most incredible colour range and can be purchased as established plants. They are perfect if you need instant colour.

Other great plants for Winter are primulas, English daisies, stocks and primroses. Prepare the soil well by adding Cock'n'Bull or Seamungus prior to planting



Lawns & Non-Flowering Plants

A lawn is made up of thousands of tiny plants. They require regular applications of fertiliser to ensure that they will develop and retain a strong root system, and put on plenty of strong growth which is a lovely deep green in colour. Winter is no exception. Lawns will be slower to grow during winter, but they still require nutrition. Apply Seamungus Crumble or Blade Runner to your lawn once or twice during winter, and water in with GOGO Juice. By doing this, your soil will be so healthy that your lawn will be off to a great start in Spring.



If your local supplier doesn't stock Seamungus Crumble or Blade Runner, Rooster Booster, Bounce Back, Rapid Raiser or Seamungus pellets will do just as well, although they will take a little longer to break down - simply leave the catcher off the mower for a while.

Natives

Natives will take off beautifully if planted now, as the heat of summer is over, but there is still some warmth in the ground. Mix Bush Tucker through the soil and cover with some fresh soil. Also feed established native plants at this time of the year.



There are some gorgeous grevilleas, acacias and hakeas to choose from now - your local nursery has an ever-increasing range of these beauties, or take a look at Angus Stewart's website where you can purchase 12 tubes for \$60 and get a free 300g tub of Bush Tucker!

<https://www.gardeningwithangus.com.au/product-category/plants/affordable-tubes/>

Acid Loving Plants

Now is the time to feed camellias and daphne with Kahoona, as they are either in bud or coming into bud. The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development, 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.

All other acid loving plants such as magnolias, rhododendrons, azaleas and blueberries will benefit from an application of Seamungus now, and Kahoona in Spring at the sign of new season's growth.



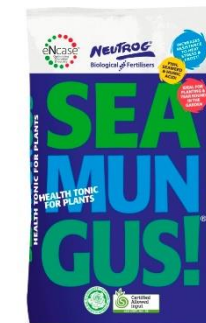
Potted Plants

Sprinkle some Strike Back for Orchids over any plants in pots that flower in winter, such as begonias and hellebores. For your plants in pots that don't flower in winter such as fuchsias, they will appreciate a feed of Seamungus.



Hedges

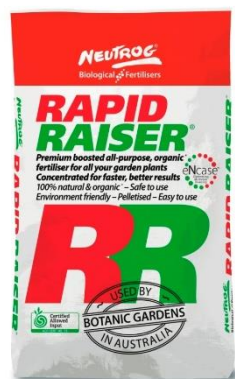
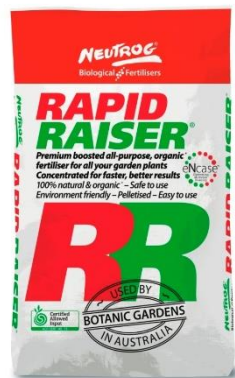
Hedges love a fertiliser which has a higher nitrogen to potassium ratio. During the growing season, we recommend applying Sudden Impact for Lawns but what do we do during Winter? Apply Seamungus and water in with GOGO Juice. By applying Seamungus, your hedge will take off so strongly in Spring, ensuring great growth and a thick, dense hedge.



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.



Veggies & Herbs

Some winter vegetables that will grow well in drier parts of Australia include broad beans, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, lettuce, peas, potatoes, garlic and spinach. An application of ACO organic-certified Rapid Raiser will give your veggies and herbs the nutrients they need during Winter, in preparation for Spring when Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus is recommended instead.

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.



Mulching

As mentioned in the introduction, there are numerous benefits of applying Whoflungdung during Winter –

- it introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria, which acts as a deterrent to pathogenic bacteria.
- weed suppression.
- regulates soil temperature.
- encourages earthworms that aerate the soil and move nutrients deeper in the soil profile.
- reduces (if not eliminates) nitrogen drawdown.
- puts organic material into the soil.
- improves water and nutrient-holding capacity.
- prevents erosion from heavy rain.
- improves water absorbency.



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