

e-feedback

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February 2014

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Sweet success for new kid on the block

Ian McGrath recently bought a 12 hectare citrus orchard of predominantly oranges in Serpentine, WA and in his first season of growing has produced markedly improved fruit thanks to the use of Gyganic and GOGO Juice.

When Ian took over the orchard the trees were in need of a pick me up. A competitor's fertiliser and the odd raw manure and compost load had been applied for the last 20 years but to no



Untreated tree.

great effect. Ian was privy to this insight as he worked for the previous owner and had seen these results first hand. When Ian took the reins, the first thing he did was spread Gyganic at 500g/tree on the entire orchard. He also added GOGO Juice to a particularly poorly-performing hectare.

The overall results have been staggering with Ian now having trouble fulfilling the existing juicing contracts due to the high quality of fruit being produced. Instead of juicing quality, 1.5 out of every 2 tonnes is grade 1 quality fruit, whereas previously they struggled to produce *any* grade 1 fruit. Now the oranges head straight to the market and Ian says "The quality and quantity is incredible; the trees have thickened up and have never looked so good."



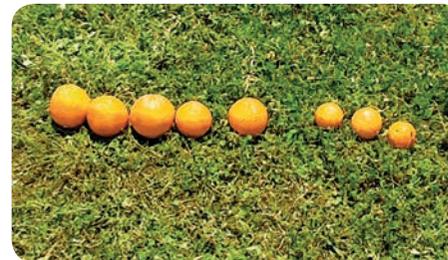
Tree fed with Gyganic.

Ian adds "The skin finish is excellent; the skins are tougher and thicker, they are cleaner and have hardly any albedo (lumps). The taste is exceptional and they are full of juice, when before they were quite bland."

Ian's fruit broker Smiths, now receives requests from overseas markets and cruise liners demanding Ian's fruit due to the superior quality. The tougher skin also adds to the shelf life, making them perfect for the export market.

Ian now fetches up to \$30 per crate for his oranges compared with a previous return of \$5.50-\$8 and his lemons return a massive \$65-\$70 per crate compared with a previous maximum of \$14.50. Overall, Ian's results have *tripled* last year's season in both fruit production and revenue!

Ian looks forward to building on this success next season and beyond through the continued use of Neutrog.



The fruit on the left has been fertilised with Gyganic. The fruit on the right is the size of last year's crop.

SPOTLIGHT

GOGO Juice is literally teeming with beneficial microbiology and is essentially a pro-biotic for soils and plants.

The carefully selected microbes have been proliferated utilising complex carbohydrates and sugars through a unique aerobic brewing system in which kelp, seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure have been digested by the beneficial bacteria.

The resultant liquid product will supply your soil and plants with a huge boost of the living microbiology necessary for them to perform at their optimum level, increasing their ability to resist pest and disease and to withstand heat and frost stress.



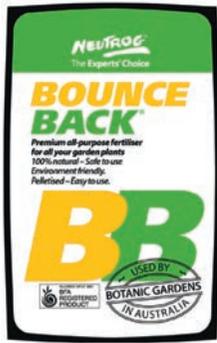
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Bounce Back v Bulk Compost Trial

Bounce Back versus bulk compost trials have commenced on a vineyard in the South East region of SA to compare the common practice of a once-off bulk compost application with a yearly application of Bounce Back.

The trial compares a 1 tonne application of Bounce Back with 60 cubic metres (21 tonne) of bulk compost per hectare over a three year period. The 1 tonne of Bounce Back and 60 cubic metres of compost were applied in spring of last year. The compost area will not receive another application for the further two growing seasons. Bounce Back will be applied again at 1 tonne for the next two growing seasons (1 tonne per year/3 applications in total). The input costs are \$2500 for the compost compared to \$1080 (3 x \$360) for the Bounce Back.

Associated spreading costs such as time, labour and diesel need to also be considered when comparing the two inputs. 3.4 tonnes of Bounce Back can

be spread per run in a standard 5 cubic metre spreader, whereas 60 cubic metres of compost will take 12 runs to spread. The consistency of the Bounce Back application is also greater, allowing for a more consistent spread of nutrients.

Soil tests taken one month after application demonstrated further differences in a range of areas. Sodium levels read very high in the compost fed area (see figure 1).

Excess sodium in the soil decreases plant available water, locks up nutrients and causes plant stress, affecting plant growth and yield. Although we would expect the sodium levels of the compost area to decrease over the trial period, they will still remain significantly higher than the Bounce Back and control areas – which will remain consistent.

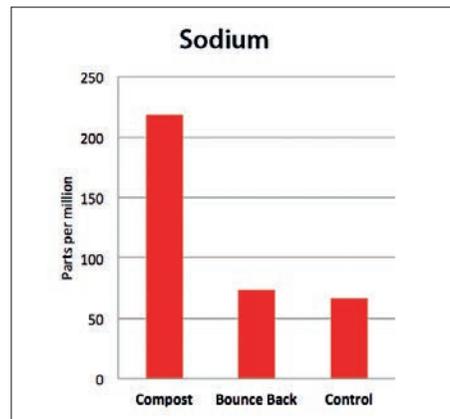


Figure 1

Organic matter and soil biology levels are both higher in Bounce Back fed areas, despite a significantly lower application rate (see figure 2 and 3).

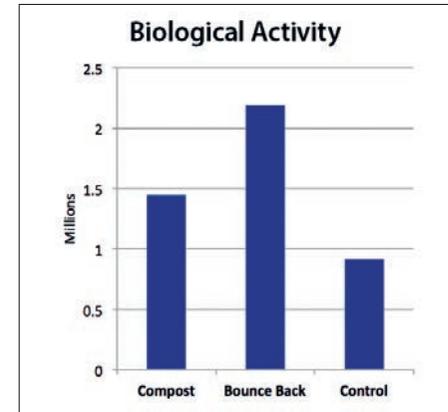


Figure 2

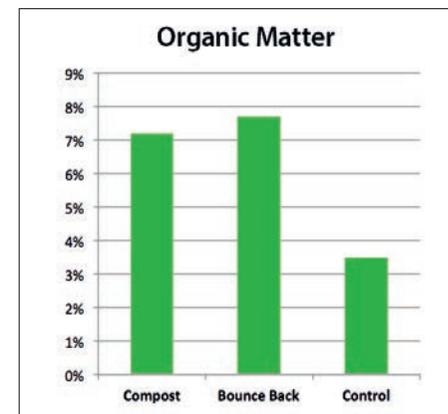


Figure 3

Bounce Back not only supplies organic matter directly to the soil, but stimulates the natural processes that occur beneath the soil, generating even greater levels of organic matter. Bounce Back is also

proven to be full of living biology due to composting methods and practices employed on the same site for over 25 years. Again, we would expect a decrease in the organic matter and soil biology levels in the compost area; whereas we should see consistently increasing levels in the Bounce Back area due to the nature of the product and consistent applications.

The soil tests further indicated Bounce Back outperformed its bulk manure counterpart in increased levels of organic carbon, soil balance and cation exchange capacity. Soil pH levels did not alter from the control to the Bounce Back fed area but increased in the bulk manure trial area (see figure 4).

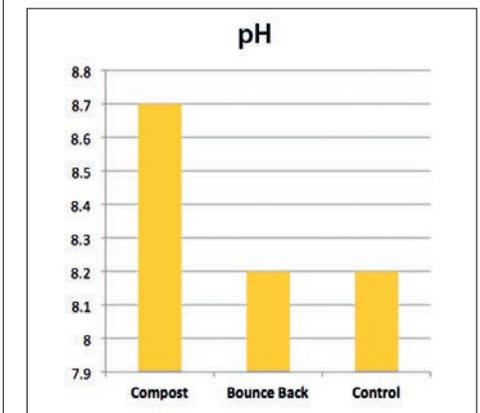


Figure 4

With such marked results in only the first year, we look forward to providing further updates as the trial continues.



King Producers of Katherine

Mango and melon growers King Producers currently produce up to 270,000 trays of mangoes and 3,500 tonnes of watermelons per season with intentions to expand this further with the introduction of rockmelons.



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This wasn't the original goal however. Ian Curtis, founder of King Producers in Katherine, NT commenced the business 28 years ago with hopes of cracking the cashew nut market in Australia. Whilst growing conditions for the trees were perfect, Ian couldn't find a suitable variety that cropped heavily and could be harvested at the time, nor could he find a processing plant for cashews in Australia. After eight years of significant trials and tribulations, it was time for Ian to cut his losses and move toward growing crops that were more feasible. That is how King Producers began growing mangoes and melons.



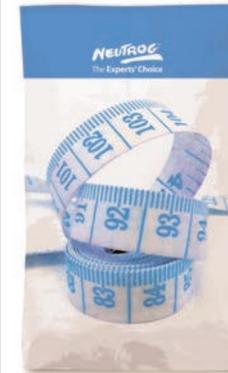
Watermelon seedlings being planted ready for the 2014 season.

King Producers came to Neutrog three seasons ago seeking a cost-effective and organic-based prescription mix for their watermelon plantings as they were concerned with soil care and encouraging increased biology in the soil. Mitchael Curtis, son of Ian and the now-owner of King Producers explains "We don't want to put on products which create a build-up of chemical nutrients that block up our soil – we want to use an organic product so all the nutrients can be available to the soil." Mitchael says the soil quality has increased every year since using Neutrog all whilst yield levels have been unaffected yet fruit flavour has increased. "The better the biology in the soil is, the better the flavour of the fruit!" states Mitchael.

King Producers also use Gyganic on their mangoes and are about to commence using GOGO Juice on their first full season of rockmelons after successful trials last season. GOGO Juice will be applied at planting stage to build the plant's root system and at the immediate onset of maturity to reduce plant stress. Rockmelon plants are susceptible to dying at the critical point of maturation - when all the plant's sugars are redirected to the fruit - so the GOGO Juice applications are designed to give the plant a greater chance of holding onto the fruit until full maturation is achieved.

Did you know?

Neutrog can create **prescription mixed** products to suit your specific requirements. Look no further when it comes to creating the right balance for your

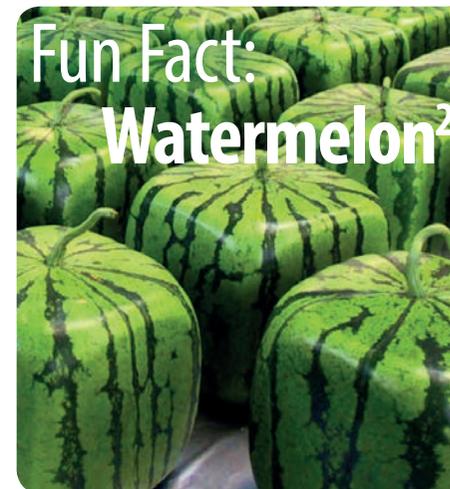


plants and soil and enquire about creating your own prescription mix today.

Contact your local representative on 1800 656 644



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In Japan space is at a premium and a round watermelon can take up a lot of room in a refrigerator and on grocery store shelves. In an attempt to solve this issue a group of local farmers invented the square watermelon! It turns out it was as easy as inserting the melons into square, tempered glass cases whilst the fruit is still growing on the vine. Today the cuboid watermelons are hand-picked and shipped all over Japan and farmers enjoy earning a premium price for them – about triple that of a regular watermelon.

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SPOTLIGHT

Bounce Back is an ideal general purpose organic fertiliser manufactured in an easy-to-use pellet form.

Each Neutrog product undergoes a unique composting process and is subject to steam treatment. These processes stabilise the nutrients, maximise nutrient availability and ensure the product is free of any parasites, pathogens and weed seeds.

Most importantly, the resultant product retains the microbiology necessary to provide a 'living' fertiliser.

Benefits include:

- Helps to unlock 'tied up' nutrients
- Controlled nutrient release
- Retains moisture and nutrients in sandy soil
- Excellent source of organic matter
- Acts as a pH buffer
- Improves soil structure
- Encourages earthworm and soil microbial activity
- Reduces leachings
- Increased yields
- Increased resistance to pests
- Increased root development
- Introduces a full balanced range of nutrients
- Increased protein levels
- Reduced screenings

Bounce Back is Australian Certified Organic.



Broadacre Update

We recently received communication from Lorna in Albany, WA who reported on some very pleasing trial results she had using Bounce Back.

Here is what Lorna had to say:

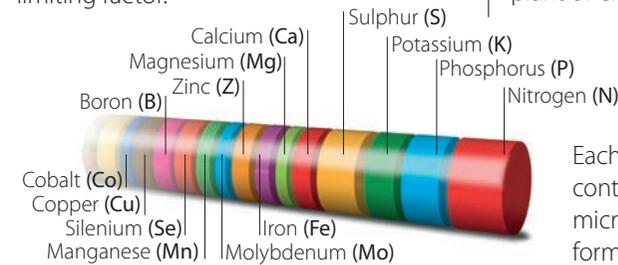
“ These pictures hardly do credit to the difference in pasture growth on the area that received Bounce Back over 12 months ago. This is approximately 6 weeks after the stock were taken out and this is a very wet area of fine compacted sand over ironstone rock. The rest of the pasture has not moved at all, but the fertilised trial plot has literally Bounced Back ! ”



Liebig's theory

Liebig's Law of the Minimum, a principle developed in agricultural science, is what sits at the core of Neutrog's philosophy.

Liebig's law states that growth is controlled not by the total amount of resources available, but by the scarcest resource or limiting factor.



This concept was originally applied to plant and crop growth, where it was found that increasing the amount of plentiful nutrients did not increase plant growth. Only by increasing the amount of the limiting nutrient (the one most scarce in relation to "need") was the growth of a plant or crop improved.

Each pellet of Neutrog Fertiliser contains a full range of macro and micro plant nutrients and its pellet form allows for uniform application.

By using Neutrog fertiliser you reduce your risk and increase your potential by covering more bases.

Do you have questions about Liebig's theory? Have a chat to us today!

BULK MANURE... HERE NOW!

Neutrog now supplies bulk chicken manure... from raw to composted and screened or unscreened. We can also create custom blends to include any added requirements such as kelp, seaweed and carbon. So whatever you require, we have your bulk chicken manure needs covered.

Please call Neutrog on 1800 656 644 to speak to one of our reps for further information.

*Currently this service is only available to our South Australian customers.



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