

e-feedback

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October 2013



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All about Australian Almonds

1. World almond consumption is at an all time high
2. Developing countries are driving almond consumption growth
3. Global almond supply, restricted by access to suitable growing conditions, will not meet future demand
4. Australia has successfully marketed increased tonnages into rapidly expanding markets
5. Australia will become the world's second largest almond producer as existing plantings mature
6. Australian almonds are enjoyed by more than 40 countries around the world
7. Australia is world competitive in both quality and cost
8. Almonds are one of Australia's most high value, efficient, environmentally friendly water converters
9. Almonds are a valuable contributor to the Australian economy
10. Almonds are a healthy, versatile, natural food that has been consumed since ancient times

Source: Almond Board of Australia
www.australialmonds.com.au



A blossoming success

The Australian almond industry has blossomed to become one of Australia's fastest growing horticulture sectors. Along with outer Adelaide, almonds are predominantly grown along the Murray River corridor in the regions of Sunraysia, Riverina and Riverland.

The Riverland region is recognised as having the best climate in the world for almond growing due to its hot summers and normally dry weather in the late summer and autumn harvest period. Along with well drained soils and adequate irrigation water, the undulating topography of the Riverland also enables low frost risk areas to be selected for plantings.

One Riverland-based company that has their finger firmly in the almond pie is Jubilee Almonds. Established in 1987, Jubilee Almonds are an independent company who achieve world class yields, efficiency and quality. Their 465 hectare property produces 1,600 of the 45,000 tonnes of kernel produced by the Australian market annually.

Long-time users of Neutrog, Jubilee Almonds have applied Bounce Back for the past eight years over a 15 hectare trial area at 1.5 tonne to the hectare, which is applied during dormancy. However, due to



visibly improved tree, root and soil health and increased yield results, the Bounce Back trial area has now expanded to cover 130 hectares of the orchard.

Bounce Back applications are broadcast with a standard fertiliser spreader across the orchard floor over winter and sprinkler applications incorporate the fertiliser into the soil which helps it break down. This season Jubilee Almonds are also trialling applications of Bounce Back at the drip line in drip orchards and then using low water applications through the existing sprinkler system to incorporate and break down the organic material.

Technical Officer at Jubilee Almonds, Chloe Shaw, explains "Due to the ground harvest of almonds, it is difficult to increase the organic content of the soil profile without causing contamination to the kernel. The BFA Certification of Bounce Back gives us some confidence that fertiliser is free from parasites, pathogens and weed seeds, therefore eliminating the risk of contamination to the soil. Bounce Back is a safe way for us to apply organic fertiliser to our sandy soils which are extremely low in organic material."



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More to Yalumba than meets the eye

'Yalumba' is a name familiar to many as a legendary Barossa Valley wine brand, renowned for being Australia's oldest family owned winery. However, you may not be so familiar with an integral part of their operations that ticks away in the background - the Yalumba Nursery.

In 1975, The Yalumba Nursery was established originally to assist with replanting the Yalumba Oxford Landing Vineyard with grafted vines. Soon enough however, there was large demand from other Yalumba vineyards and growers, and by 1982 the nursery was supplying vines on a commercial scale.

The Yalumba Oxford Landing Vineyard is set on the banks of the majestic Murray River in the Riverland and was the first major vineyard planted in the area. This site is also home to the field nursery and source blocks, with the callus rooms and production facilities based at Angaston in the Barossa Valley.



Matthew Carter, tending to the new vines at Yalumba Oxford Landing Nursery

All new vines start off their life in the Angaston nursery and are grafted onto proven rootstock. The rootstock selected is dependent on where the vine will spend the rest of its life - geographically, climatically and in what soil type. Once grafted, the vines are kept in controlled temperature callus rooms for 18-20 days, until the graft starts fusing together and the roots start pushing out from the rootstock. The vines are then trucked to the field nursery at Oxford Landing, dipped in wax to protect from drying out in the sandy soils and planted at 24 vines per metre. After a year they are dug up and trucked back to the Angaston nursery where they are trimmed and sold.

Seamungus is applied as a pre-plant for the new vines and goes out at two tonnes per hectare with a spreader and is thoroughly incorporated into the soil

before planting commences. Additionally, Seamungus is also used in the vineyard on any younger plantings to help give them an added boost. Glynn Muster, Oxford Landing Vineyard Manager says, "We like using Seamungus as it contains a bit of everything, the soils here are very sandy and low in organic matter so they require some serious nourishment". The dehydrated and pelletised form of Seamungus is also preferred by Glynn over using bulk manures, "It's easier to use and cheaper to have freighted - you're looking at maybe two truckloads instead of 10 or so".

Glynn and the Oxford Landing team are committed to continually looking to operate in a more sustainable manner and seek more sustainable ways of growing to ensure the nursery and vineyard continue to thrive for generations to come.

SPOTLIGHT

Your crops will just love Seamungus...

...jam packed full of goodness, Seamungus is a soil and plant conditioner manufactured by composting seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure.

Seamungus undergoes a unique composting process, 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.

Seamungus will help increase resistance to pests and disease, stimulate healthy growth (both above and below ground) and most importantly, generally aids in improving the well being of your soils and crops.



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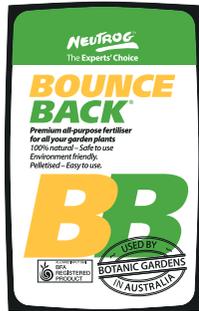
Hart Field Site Trial Update



Trial crops at the Hart Field Site



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Bounce Back trials are still underway with the Hart Field Site Group in the mid-north of South Australia. Hart conduct independent trials focussed

on being relevant to the broadacre farming community. The substantial trial site at Hart is available for inspection throughout each growing season and Neutrog representative, Ryan Sheridan recently visited the site during one of Hart's organised crop walks and has the following to report:

"Visually the Bounce Back trial crops are looking very healthy. The season has been kind with a mild winter and high rainfall

so all crops are looking good. With this high rainfall I would expect this will result in nutrient lasting in the soil due to the characteristics of organic nutrient.

At this stage of the season and with a healthy looking crop, I would anticipate that the ability for the Neutrog fed crops to last longer before haying off will be greater than that of synthetic fertilisers. For this reason I would expect that the quality of the crop improves by high protein levels and less screenings."

Stay tuned as Hart will be harvesting these crops in late November and we will follow up with the results shortly after. Hart also publish all trial results on their website.

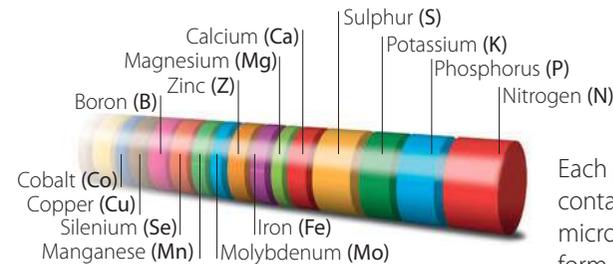
<http://www.hartfieldsite.org.au/>

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.



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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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GYGANIC—SAVING YOU TIME AND MONEY

Independent field trials on lettuce crops have shown the use of Gyganic not only improves the health of your soils, but saves you time, money and effort.

Kevan Dobra from the Loose Leaf Lettuce Company in Gingin, WA has been trialling our organic based, chemically boosted complete fertiliser Gyganic against well-known imported chemical compound fertiliser YaraMila Complex. The YaraMila Complex was applied weekly at 115kg per hectare whereas the Gyganic was applied twice at 500kg per hectare over the eight week trial. The trial was based on similar dollar input costs.

The trial results highlighted the Gyganic treated area held the nutrient in the soil for a longer period than the YaraMila, only dropping off at around the three-to-four week mark. Additionally the nutrient was holding in the top 15cms with minimal leaching down to 30cm. Given lettuces (from seed) have an eight to twelve week growing cycle, this demonstrates that a logical benefit can be achieved by applying Gyganic less frequently than YaraMila, saving you in money, time and labour.

Kevan is currently using Bounce Back as a pre-plant application, and will look at continuing his trials of Gyganic in the future.



Lettuce crops part of the Gyganic trial conducted at Loose Leaf Lettuce Company

Did you know?

Neutrog can create **prescription mixed** products to suit your specific requirements. So 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.



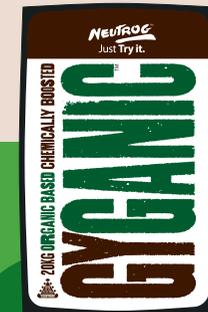
Contact your local representative on 1800 656 644

SPOTLIGHT Gyganic is an organic based, biological, chemically boosted, complete fertiliser with the full range of nutrients in an organic form, coupled with chemically boosted levels of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Iron (Fe) and Magnesium (Mg). Microbes have been added to

Gyganic's unique organic base of manure, seaweed, kelp, fish, humates, lucerne and rock phosphate to breakdown these organic materials, ensuring the full range of organic nutrients are available when applied.

Happy, healthy soils and plants are more resistant to pests and diseases.

Gyganic is ideal for all fruit and vegetable crops (including chloride sensitive crops) and particularly those where a premium is paid for consistent and uniform fruit and vegetable size.



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Building Communities One Garden at a Time

A story from Neutrog Africa

ABALIMI is a Volunteer Association which works to empower the disadvantaged through urban agriculture and environmental programmes. It operates in the socially and economically neglected townships of Khayelitsha, Nyanga and the surrounding areas on the Cape Flats near Cape Town.

Abalimi tries to provide a means of basic survival and long term sustainability to these communities, but also to encourage a healthy organic lifestyle. Through Abalimi's experience it can be seen that organic group gardening facilitates

community building and helps the individuals personal growth and self-esteem.

Neutrog donates 24 tonnes of organic fertiliser to Abalimi each year. Feeding their plants Bounce Back, Rapid Raiser and Seamungus allows their produce to be marketed as organically produced. Neutrog products, which are rich in organic carbon, have also helped create and maintain healthy levels of soil fertility in the cape flats. The sandy nature of the soils in this area are notoriously difficult to grow any produce in, let alone vegetables. The farmers are also now able to farm all year round, as the product allows reliable fertility enhancement throughout the year.



Field worker Lulekwa Mbobo showing farmers how to apply Neutrog's Bounce Back to a trench bed during soil fertility training at Asande Community Garden in Gugulethu

Five years ago Abalimi realised there was a surplus of produce going to waste, so a short food chain business called Harvest of Hope was started to sell contracted and surplus vegetables through a membership based vegetable box scheme. Once produce has been harvested it is collected and taken to a central pack shed where it is washed and packaged by the farmers and often with the help of volunteers. Whatever is left in the garden is consumed by the farmers, sold locally or given to sick or very poor people in their neighbourhoods, to ensure that the food security needs of the local population are met. Harvest of Hope was established to find and secure long term external markets for the farmers. The farmers provide produce such as carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes and much more.



Sorting beets and radishes at the Harvest of Hope kitchen

With the use of Neutrog products, Abalimi should be able to increase their product production by a substantial amount.

Currently, up to 400 boxes of fresh organic vegetables are sold to as many school-going families and to businesses in Cape Town per week, supplied by approximately 100 micro-farmers in 22 community gardens. By 2015 they would like sales to increase to between 1200-2000 boxes per week and support many more farmers.

Neutrog looks forward to a continued relationship with the wonderful project which has grown from strength to strength and continues to be a model for other projects of its kind.

For more information about these projects please visit www.abalimi.org.za or www.harvestofhope.co.za



Hard at work in the Abalimi gardens



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GOGO JUICE HAS BEEN GIVEN A NEW SKIN!

Now available in a 20L plastic drum for easy use and handling



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