

The Pooh Bah Times



NEUTROG'S APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Hello to our Pooh Bah members and welcome to our April newsletter.

The outbreak of the coronavirus has resulted in much uncertainty around the world, and during this time it's difficult to find any semblance of peace in our lives, but in times of stress, gardening can be a great tonic.

A study published in the Journal of Health Psychology reported that gardening was more effective at reducing stress than reading a book.



Another study that appeared in the Journal of Public Health found that working in a garden for just 30 minutes increased self-esteem and mood. Digging, weeding, planting and harvesting are all physical activities that release endorphins. In addition, exposure to sunlight has been shown to increase serotonin in the brain, which is the hormone that makes us feel good and helps to balance our brain.

Pulling up some weeds, planting a few veggies, raking some autumn leaves, deadheading some roses or just spending some quiet time in the garden can help. If you have children or grandchildren at home from school, why not involve them in some gardening? Planting a packet of seeds, potting up some colorful containers, making a fairy garden or a bug box, collecting seeds, picking some flowers or creating a succulent display are all projects that will get you and the children outside.

Coming into winter we all need to boost our immune system, but it's more important now than ever, so make sure you read our 'Time to boost your immune system' article below.

For those of you who are reading a forwarded copy from a friend, we trust you enjoy our newsletter. If you do, make sure you [sign up to become a Pooh Bah Club member](#) and we'll send The Pooh Bah Times direct to your inbox (it's free to join, and we won't bombard you with emails).

We wish everyone the very best of health in these troubling times.

Happy gardening,
The Neutrog team.

We always look forward to connecting with you about what's happening in our garden world, and we love receiving your feedback, so please don't hesitate to send us an email or comment on our social media pages.

Additionally, if you have any garden photos to share, send them to marketing@neutrog.com.au and we can share them with everyone.

We never have enough room in our newsletters to share all of our inspirational stories and tips from our gardening community, but they do appear on our Facebook and Instagram pages regularly...why not join us there?



Coming up

- Growing great veggies - Kelvin Trimper shares his secrets
- This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum
- Cloud River Farm, Tasmania
- An Insight into Neutrog - new video
- NSW 'From the Ground Up' book - special offer
- What kind of plant is this?
- The Expert's Choice - Rose Society Autumn cultural notes
- Time to boost your immune system
- Share your garden makeover
- Australian Agronomist magazine - an article by Dr. Uwe
- Research & Development - Trichoderma bio control update
- Uwe talks orchids with Graham Ross
- Bush Tucker on Better Homes & Gardens
- Around the Grounds - Seymour Racing Club
- Product of the Month – Kahoona
- Year Round Fertilising Programme



Growing Great Veggies

Kelvin Trimper shares his secrets

Kelvin Trimper, Past President of The World Federation of Rose Societies, is well known for growing roses, but he also has a passion for growing fruit and vegetables on his one acre property at Greenwith in South Australia. Kelvin has trialled and used many Neutrog products since 1999 and has provided us with some tricks of the trade he's developed over the years to produce healthy, abundant fruit and vegetable gardens.



"I was born and raised in the rural town of Renmark in South Australia and this is where I developed a love for plants - especially roses, fruit trees and vegetables. I have been growing all kinds of vegetables organically for over 50 years. In my home garden I have 40 fruit trees aged between 2 and 25 years old, and the vegetable patch covers about 1/8 of an acre. Here are my suggestions for developing a new vegetable garden".

Concentrate on space efficient, seasonal vegetables

My recommendation to the home gardener is to avoid growing vegetables that require a huge space, such as sprawling pumpkins and watermelons. Instead, concentrate on vegies which will use space more efficiently. I also think it's important to plant varieties according to the season. In summer I grow tomatoes, zucchini, corn, radish, beetroot, beans, lettuce, cucumbers and carrots.

To complement these ingredients I grow garlic, spring onions, white and brown onions and some lovely herbs like basil, parsley, sage and chives. For the summer season, we grow everything we need for salads and have plenty to share with family and neighbours. I plant tomatoes again in January to ensure fruit supply is extended into June or early July.



Some of Kelvin's healthy produce

Get the soil right

My vegetable patch is now 25 years old. Years ago when I arrived on this block of land, it was mostly a heavy clay soil that was more like sticky mud. To improve the quality of the soil, I regularly added gypsum to reduce the clay content, Tailem Bend sand (coarse sand) to improve the drainage, and organic compost and organic fertilisers to add nutrients to the soil, improve the soil structure and water retention. It took me about five years to get the soil just right.

When planning a new vegie garden, choose a site away from root competition in full sun, and prepare the soil two to three weeks before planting. The importance of well-prepared soil is essential for optimal growth – if you have healthy soil, you are more likely to have healthy plants. In my garden, the vegetable patch is hand-weeded and no weed killer sprays are allowed.

Another way of improving the soil, especially where tomatoes were grown last season, is to plant a cover crop such as a legume, which can quickly be worked into the soil and rapidly build up organic matter.

Choose a good quality fertiliser

I have been trialling and using Neutrog products for over twenty years. I have used Sudden Impact for Roses on our rose garden and stone fruit trees, apples and pears. I use it because it is a good, well balanced, fertiliser in pellet form, which is easy to use. Secondly, the roses, stone fruit trees, apples and pears are all related – they are all members of Rosaceae, the rose family. I have also had great success using Sudden Impact for Roses on my tomatoes, capsicum and eggplant.

From the beginning, I have used Rapid Raiser on the rest of the vegetable patch. It is an organic concentrated fertiliser which promotes faster, healthier and almost continuous growth as well as earthworm and microbial activity and improves the quality of the soil.

Over the years I watched with interest as Neutrog added to their product range - they have introduced many new, scientifically-based products which I have trialled and now regularly use.

I was absolutely delighted with the results I got from Seamungus, a root stimulant and soil conditioner. Seamungus is now an essential part of my planting regime, whether I'm planting bare-rooted roses or baby seedlings into the vegetable garden. It really gives the seedlings a good start and boosts root growth. I have also tried their organic fertilisers in recent years. Neutrog's Rocket Fuel was formulated for growing fruit and vegetables and more recently, Gyganic was introduced as a new fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance uniform fruit and improve the quality of vegetables and flowers. It is an organic based, chemically boosted, biological, complete fertiliser.



Kelvin's freshly picked and washed vegies



12-year-old fruit trees in Kelvin's garden

Use a good quality fertiliser on fruit trees for optimal produce

I have used Gyganic on all my fruit trees for the past six years with excellent results, and have had great success growing many varieties of fruit trees, even on the hot Adelaide Plains. I have been surprised at the quality of the Stella Cherries and Royal Gala Apples, usually grown in the cooler Adelaide Hills region.

In particular, I love growing apricots, peaches, cherries, nectarines and apples and pears. I believe you can't beat home grown fruit. In many instances there is a big difference in flavour between home-grown and shop bought.

Be patient and don't be afraid to experiment

Gardening is all about patience and experimentation. I've learnt many tricks of the trade over the years, for example, I found that making up small glasshouses using firm wire and strong clear plastic or Perspex helps raise seedlings in very early spring. Remember to be patient during cold weather – plan your vegie garden according to the seasons and use crop rotation. I recommend watering by giving the garden a deep soaking early morning or at night to save water.

Over the years I have tried just about all varieties of vegetables and have enjoyed experimenting to see what works best. Trial and error pays off so don't be afraid to try new things, because when you are gardening, you never stop learning".



Kelvin's home-made glasshouse

This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum

This season in the Arboretum we are applying Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus to all of the trees, along with an application of GOGO Juice. Members of the Rare Fruit Society will be removing any autumn weeds and getting the ground ready for an application of Whoflungdung in late autumn/early winter.

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 South Australia. Nearly 500 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.

About Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus - Specifically developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste, Gyganic is a premium organic based, chemically boosted complete fertiliser with the full range of nutrients in an organic form, coupled with boosted levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and magnesium.

Gyganic's unique organic base of manure, humates and rock phosphate have been composted and blended with the biologically active GOGO Juice containing kelp and seaweed – producing a very nutritious organic base product high in organic carbon.

Following extensive trials by members, Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus is now recommended by the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia. This endorsement provides gardeners with the confidence to use and recommend Gyganic.



Cloud River Farm, Tasmania

Mark and Natalie Donkin moved from a 2-bedroom city apartment in Sydney to Cloud River Farm in the Huon Valley in far south Tasmania 10 months ago.

Built in 1893, Cloud River Farm is a heritage listed property with a pickers hut and three acres of garden including an orchard, olive grove, hothouse, veggie garden, 160 roses and lots of hedging.

“We were bursting with excitement for this new adventure and the opportunity to grow our own produce and catch fish on our doorstep” said Natalie. *“We wanted to breathe the clean country Tasmanian air, enjoy beautiful outdoor spaces, create more calm in our lives and tend to the roses. We were moving to our paradise”*. However the gardens had begun to suffer after a lack of rain, bushfires and the invasion of possums and wallabies looking for food and water.



The dams were very low, and without town water, Mark and Natalie were grateful that rain was on its way to fill the tanks. Many conifers were already dead and others were dying. Fruit and nut trees along with the roses were being massacred by the wildlife, and critters had moved into the roof of the pickers hut and the ceiling was coming down.

“In the garden we deadheaded agapanthus, pruned hydrangeas and roses and got to work collecting mulch and fertilisers. We made our first trip of many to Bunnings and loaded the car up with Sudden Impact for Roses, Seamungus, GOGO Juice, Eco Oil and Wettasoil, along with pony poo from a local farm. We were determined to put as much goodness back into the soil to improve the quality and retain moisture. We mulched, weeded, prepared and planned” said Natalie.

“Everything was fed with Neutrog products and talked to about how beautifully they would grow and produce delicious fruit and stunning flowers. They were definitely listening and the garden is flourishing” said Natalie. *“We’ve had incredibly beautiful figs, plums and rhubarb. Our Smyrna quinces, pears, apples, passionfruit and hazelnuts are nearly ready for picking, and everyone is commenting on the size of our figs, plums and quinces. The flavours have been out of this world”*.

The pickers hut is currently being renovated to create a stunning Airbnb so that guests can experience everything that the Huon Valley offers – relaxation, food, wine and spectacular walks and scenery. Guests will be able to enjoy the gardens and sit on the main deck overlooking the mighty Huon River. Later this year, Mark and Natalie are planning to host an open garden for a group of garden lovers from Queensland.

“We know the love, hard work and superior Neutrog products have definitely enabled us to have had such a fabulous result in such a short time. We are looking forward to using other Neutrog products we haven’t tried yet, but will continue to use everything that we’ve already found to be so amazing. Our plants are thanking us for it” concluded Natalie.

You can follow the progress of the gardens and renovation of the pickers hut on Natalie's Instagram page here:

www.instagram.com/farawaytreetravel/



An Insight into Neutrog

Soil is rich in secrets, and Neutrog is on a journey to unearth these secrets. It's a journey we're very passionate about.

We are proud to bring you our latest video for your viewing pleasure, which will give you a great insight into Neutrog.

From the very beginning, our products have been developed through working closely with Australian farmers, growers and professional gardeners - the people who rely on the performance of our fertilisers to earn their living - to feed their families.

We also actively collaborate with some of the most respected institutions in Australia including universities, state Botanic Gardens and research institutions such as the CSIRO.



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Do we have an amazing Mother's Day offer for you!

Neutrog have a limited number of the NSW edition 'From the Ground Up' gardening books on offer for Mother's Day for just **\$19.95 with free postage!** (normally \$49.95 plus postage).

Written by Linda, Sandra and Graham Ross, 'From the Ground Up' is a complete and comprehensive garden guide specifically developed for all NSW gardeners, from novices to experts.

Packed full of magnificent photographs, it allows you to visually identify everything from the best plants for your garden to the pests and diseases causing your plants grief.

Visit www.neutrog.com.au to purchase via the [online store](#). Offer ends 8th May 2020.

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*



Visit our Online Store for
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What kind of plant is this?

We posted this image on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and asked anyone if they knew what kind of plant this is...here are some of the great responses we had...

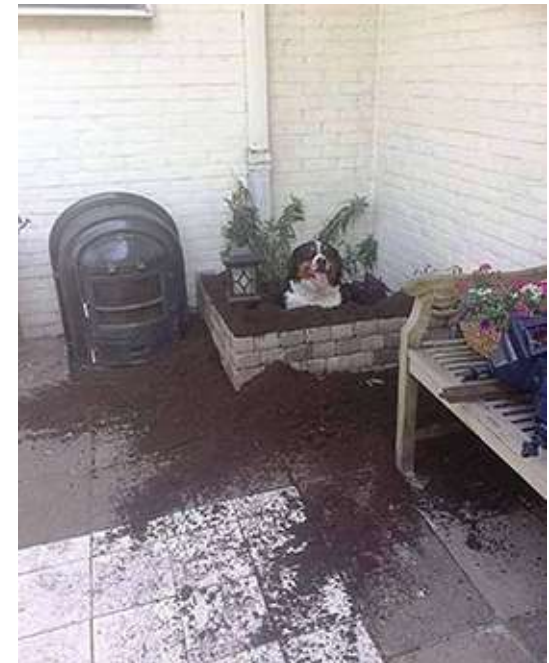
Gerry: *"It's a self propagating subwoofa or a kaynyne indadirt, very good for natural remedies for bad moods all the way to helping with ptsd, just rub it in between your palms for a few minutes and you should start to smile...I did".*

Julie: *"Whatever it is, it seems to be happy in that spot. I believe it needs regular feeding and watering. It certainly has attractive colouring and is more active in the cooler weather. It can sometimes become unruly during periods of increased growth so be prepared for some training to keep it under control".*

Carina: *"Simply a poochplant - very common in lots of yards. Health benefits are cuddles, snuggles, love and a companion for life. I recommend at least 1 per household."*

Trevor: *"Ah yes, commonly known as diggus caninus. Found in many backyards."*

Rosie: *"A beautiful canopherous plant, needs feeding at least twice a day and continual watering! Been having such a lovely time trying to find his roots!"*



Collaborations

Over the years Neutrog has collaborated with many plant societies that have trialled and subsequently endorsed some of our products. These product endorsements provide retail staff and home gardeners with the confidence to use and recommend Neutrog 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 the Australian Plants Society of Victoria.



The Expert's Choice

Rose Cultural Notes

Each season the Rose Society of South Australia (RSSA) releases cultural notes, which are recommendations from the experts on how to care for your roses. Here are the latest cultural notes by Gavin Woods (*pictured*). Gavin is Past President of the RSSA and the National Rose Society of Australia. He is also Chief Judge with the RSSA and an International Rose Judge accredited with the World Federation of Rose Societies. We've also included a photo below of the Rose Society of South Australia's Rose of the Month - 'Diana, Princess of Wales'.



“If you haven’t yet fed this season do it now! May will be too late and you will be essentially wasting your product, especially if you use pelleted products such as Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses, but it’s definitely not too late at the moment. The other vital component for maintaining your roses for March is water. The biggest and strongest blooms of the year are forming and are built on the foundation that only water provides. If you have a method of measuring water usage then try for 50L per plant per week. If you are preparing new ground for roses, continue to apply Neutrog’s GOGO Juice on a monthly basis till planting.



Aphids may return by the end of March, but the cool weather anticipated for autumn may deter thrips. There are many chemical controls available - many of us rely on biological control agents but some degree of damage can be anticipated. I am rapidly moving to being an exponent of the two-brick method of insect control which is 100% effective. Fungal disease can be treated with a single application of Triforene.

This is the last chance to “shovel prune”! This means digging roses out, removing the non-performers and as many of the roots as you can, as well as a barrow load of soil. Replace with fresh soil and add loads of Neutrog’s Seamungus and GOGO Juice to prepare the hole. Water shoots will continue to appear and should be supported. They are the life blood of your plants! Tying them to an existing cane is effective and far less unsightly than tying them to stakes”.



Rose of the Month

'Diana, Princess of Wales' is a particularly beautiful rose in keeping with its namesake. It is a Hybrid Tea rose with pink and cream blooms which darken in warmer climates as the bloom ages. It’s an ideal cut flower and the fragrance is classified as moderate with a mild sweet tea scent. It is a well-branched bush up to 1.65m in height.

The flowers and healthy, disease resistant, glossy green foliage make for a great cut flower. This rose provides a succession of flushes throughout the growing season and is available from [Wagner's Rose Nursery](#), [Treloar Roses](#) and [Swane's Nurseries](#).

Time to boost your immune system

It is widely known that eating a diet high in fruits and vegetables is the ideal way to boost your immune system, as it's your body's defence against infection and illness.

With the current outbreak of coronavirus we are all facing, doing everything we possibly can to stay healthy is our best option, so now it's more important than ever to get some veggies growing in your garden.

Vegetables to plant now include broccoli, beetroot, tomatoes, leek, Asian greens, silverbeet, cauliflower, beans, peas, spring onions, leeks, radish, cucumber, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, onions, parsley, parsnips, radishes and turnips.

For the best results, prepare your soil by adding some organic matter such as compost, along with some certified organic Rooster Booster, Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Bounce Back, and water it in well with GOGO Juice to increase the microbial population in the soil. Once your veggies have been planted, applying regular doses of liquid Seamungus or GOGO Juice will help overcome transplant shock and help your seedlings thrive.



Once your veggies have established themselves, regular applications of Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus is your best bet to a productive harvest. Adding nutrients to the soil is essential because plants use them when they grow, and as they are removed from the soil when you harvest your crop, it's critical you use a well balanced fertiliser to replenish the soil with nutrients for your next crop. It also makes your harvest taste that much better!

Gyganic is an ideal fertiliser for your vegetables, fruit and citrus as it has been specifically developed to enhance crop size, quality and taste. At Neutrog, we use a base of composted chicken manure and supplement it with some essential nutrients, but because Gyganic is based on composted chicken litter and chickens are fed a balanced diet, it already contains significant amounts of other micronutrients. Nutrients such as zinc, magnesium and calcium are all critical for animal health, but also for plant health.

Share your garden makeover

Neutrog staff member Erica is a passionate gardener who has converted an unused area on her property to create a wildflower garden for bees and butterflies. The area was hidden behind a roller door at the back of the property and was full of weeds. It's still a work in progress, but it's certainly a vast improvement on what was there originally.

Rather than taking it to the tip, the old half-water tank that was laying on the ground has now been positioned upright to act as an entry, and wisteria have been planted on each side, so that eventually the wisteria will form an archway into the garden. An old door that was missing its glass panel has been re-purposed and positioned in the fence, so she can still chat to her neighbours through the hole in the door.



Wisteria canes from a rogue plant next door that had developed roots were dug out and soaked in GOGO Juice for a day and then planted along the fence, and will eventually intertwine with jasmine. A dry stone wall was erected to create the garden bed walls, and all of the wildflowers were grown from seed. Whoflungdung and Seamungus were dug into the soil before sowing and watered in with GOGO Juice. Sudden Impact for Roses liquid is applied every couple of weeks to encourage flowering.

Seeing what someone else has achieved in their garden can inspire others to do the same, so if you have your own before and after photos of projects you've done in the garden, why not send them into us, and we can post them on our social media pages and inspire others?

Simply email your before and after photos (preferably taken from the same angle) to marketing@neutrog.com.au along with a couple of paragraphs about what you've done, and we'll share them with everyone. We all look forward to seeing the results of your hard work!



The Biological Approach

The Australian Agronomist Magazine

The Australian Agronomist Magazine Autumn issue is out now, and features an article by Neutrog's Microbiologist and R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehler called *'Nitrogen Fixation in Agriculture by Mutualistic and Free Living Bacteria.'*

Uwe discusses the role nitrogen fixation plays within plant tissues of legumes or within the soil itself by free living bacteria, and how bacteria can turn atmospheric nitrogen into a plant-useable form such as ammonia.

[Click here to read the article.](#)



About Rapid Raiser – a unique blend of organic materials specially formulated for all your fertilising needs, Rapid Raiser is a highly concentrated, natural product that promotes faster, healthier, sustained growth for all plants, and is particularly suitable for heavy feeding plants such as roses.

Rapid Raiser encourages the development of earthworm and microbial activity leading to healthy, well-structured soils. Rapid Raiser is composted and steam treated to ensure the product is pathogen and weed free.



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Neutrog TV, Radio & Video

Dr. Uwe talks Orchids with Graham Ross

Listen to Neutrog's Microbiologist, Dr Uwe Stroehler as he dishes the dirt on gardening and soil microbiology on radio.

In this radio segment with Graham Ross, Uwe explains how to get the best from your orchids - [click here to listen](#) or visit neutrog.com.au/video-gallery.



Getting the best out of your orchids
Graham Ross & Dr. Uwe Stroehler

About **Strike Back for Orchids** – available in pellet and liquid form, Strike Back for Orchids is ideal for all potted flowering and fruiting plants...not just orchids!

It is an organic-based, chemically-boosted fertiliser specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of orchids, and combines the best of both worlds – its organic base provides a full range of plant nutrients in a slow release form, whilst the carefully selected water-soluble nutrients have been added to maximise the performance of each application.



Bush Tucker on Better Homes & Gardens

[Click here to watch](#) garden expert Melissa King on Better Homes & Gardens debunk the myth that native plants don't need fertilising. Melissa explains that natives benefit with regular nutrition provided by Neutrog's specialist fertiliser Bush Tucker, including the most phosphorous-sensitive natives.



Developed in conjunction with native plant expert Angus Stewart and soil scientist Simon Leake, Bush Tucker is a complete, organic-based, boosted fertiliser specifically developed to meet the specialised needs of all Australian native plants.

Utilising a unique process, trace elements have been added to lock up phosphorus, making Bush Tucker ideal for even the most phosphorus-sensitive plants such as grevilleas, banksias and proteas. It is recommended and endorsed by the Australian Plants Society of Victoria.

Bush Tucker not only directly supplies a wide range of essential nutrients, but more importantly provides a catalyst (through the introduction of beneficial bacteria/microbes) for stimulating the natural processes that occur in the soil – unlocking further nutrients and enhancing root growth. Greater root growth provides a greater soil surface area from which your plants can draw nutrients and moisture.

"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.

Video also available at neutrog.com.au/video-gallery



Research & Development

Trichoderma bio control update

In October last year we reported that Neutrog was collaborating with Western Sydney University, led by Professor Brajesh Singh, in an extensive research project to examine the viability and efficacy of a number of biological control agents (isolates) against some agriculturally significant fungal pathogens - these include Sclerotinia and Rhizoctonia, as well as oomycotes Pythium.



Tests conducted in-field by Western Sydney Uni staff.

All three of these pathogens are major contributors to significant crop loss and yield reduction, not only in Australia, but throughout the world. Whilst our research was initially focused on Trichoderma, we were surprised to find, via DNA testing, that the best performing fungal biocontrol agents (isolates) in each application (Sclerotinia, Rhizoctonia & Pythium) were shown to be a completely different genus not belonging to the Trichoderma species/family but were actually Penicillium species - potentially in itself, a major discovery.

Now that the plate testing has been completed, the next phase of the trial has moved to test these potential biological control agents in a glasshouse setting, which will determine their ability to proliferate outside of a lab environment, and to determine how they impact on soil health and other growth parameters. In total, 20 potential biological control agents will be tested to see whether they can inhibit the growth of the pathogens mentioned.



How is this significant to home gardeners?

If Neutrog's research and development is successful, home gardeners will have access to a natural bio-control product that can be safely used as a replacement to chemical fungicides to protect their plants from fungal diseases such as black spot on roses, Botrytis or gray mold on geraniums, strawberries, grapes, chrysanthemums, roses and dahlias, Cercospora leaf spot on figs, hydrangeas, eggplants, carrots, roses, peppers and beans, and Powdery mildew on lilacs, cucumbers, grapes, squash and melons.

In keeping with Neutrog's philosophy, we are seeking to develop a product that has a wide diversity of biological control agents within, to ensure that the product is more effective against a broader range of pathogens such as black spot, and is also more likely to be suited to a more diverse range of environments.

Research will focus on using these isolates on wheat plants, which will be assessed on the number and severity of wheat seedling lesions. It will also examine plant height, number of leaves, biomass, root length, root morphology and root biomass. This will determine which biological control agents are the most effective in reducing plant damage caused by the fungal pathogens.



Wajira from Western Sydney University conducting some streak plating in the laboratory.

Around the Grounds

Seymour Racing Club

Horses, racing and a day out - if you love going to the races, some of the most enjoyable days are at a country race meet. The Seymour Racing Club has long been synonymous with country racing in Victoria, however in 2016, Seymour become a premier racing destination with a \$5.2 million racecourse upgrade, thanks to the Victorian Government, Racing Victoria and the club itself.

Part of the redevelopment has seen the track widened, new irrigation and drainage systems installed and the growing of new turf. Racecourse Manager, Brett Thompson has taken it from a rye grass track to kikuyu. The track has a sand profile which means that nutrients are leached, so part of the work Brett is doing is to ensure that the track benefits from a slow release fertiliser. To that end, he has been applying Neutrog's Bounce Back.

"A couple of years ago I was looking for a complete product which would break down slowly and assist with the leaching of nutrition" said Brett. "I felt that Bounce Back was the perfect product to do this, plus the fact that it contains a diverse range of beneficial bacteria was extremely important. As a bonus, the pellets are a very consistent size and easy to spread which is an efficiency we appreciate."



The gardens around the racecourse are magnificent. The garden team, led by Jess Jackson are very pleased with the results of Seamungus as a general fertiliser over the garden beds. "As we've been seeing such positive outcomes, our next step was to trial GOGO Juice. The benefits of a strong and diverse range of bacteria and fungi in the soil are critical to the performance of any plant, and we look forward to seeing the results of that as well." Brett concluded.



For more information about the Seymour Racing Club, visit <https://country.racing.com/seymour>

Product of the Month

Kahoona for acid-loving plants

If you have winter-flowering camellias, daphne or azaleas in your garden, now is the time to feed them. Depending on where you live, these plants will give you beautiful blooms throughout autumn, winter and into spring.

Fortunately, camellias will grow nearly anywhere in Australia. They don't mind a light frost and most of them need shade, particularly during the midday summer heat. They also need protection from hot, drying winds. If you don't have a lot of shade, you may like to consider some of the Camellia sasanquas, as they can withstand a lot more sun as long as they're kept well watered, fed and mulched.

Daphnes enjoy the cooler climates of southern Australia and are tolerant of frost. They like moist, rich, well-drained, slightly acidic soil in a cool spot in light shade or with morning sun. If you can't achieve excellent drainage in the garden, a pot-grown daphne is a better option. Azaleas grow well in a range of climates from Brisbane to Perth, and further south to Melbourne. They thrive in a slightly acidic soil with good drainage. Other acid loving plants include nasturtiums, heather, magnolia, marigolds, rhododendrons, fothergillas, gardenias, iris, begonias, caladium and dogwood.

According to Philip Hough, President of Camellias South Australia, late autumn through to spring time is a great time to plant or repot camellias, and recommends an application of Kahoona and GOGO Juice. "*Watering your Kahoona in with GOGO Juice brings wonderful results!*" said Philip. He also suggests disbudding excessive bud set, keeping an eye on their water requirements and applying a layer of Whoflungdung to keep the soil temperature constant and to lock in moisture.

Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants. 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, helping to prevent the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring.

Kahoona is manufactured into a pellet form – each pellet contains the full range of macro and micro plant nutrients along with good levels of organic carbon. This organic carbon helps in retaining the water soluble nutrients within the soil, and aids in regulating their uniform uptake by plants. Following successful trials, Kahoona is endorsed by the NSW Camellia Research Society, the Camellia Society of WA, the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch), Camellias South Australia and Camellias Illawarra.



Camellia Sasanqua Paradise Sayaka



Year-Round Fertilising Programme

The plants in our garden are just like animals and humans - they grow best when they are well-nourished and fed regularly. Happy healthy plants don't get sick and are less likely to be affected by heat, frost, pests or diseases, which is going to make you a much happier gardener too!

Hint – if you are wanting to achieve even better results, take the quantity recommended for feeding your plants for the season, divide it into equal parts, and apply 1 part in each month of the season. It is not about applying more, but rather, applying more regularly. This way, your plants receive a continual feed of nutrients.



Year round fertilising for year round health

Keep an eye out for heat stress in all areas of your garden. Any stressed plants would love some help to recover, so applying products rich in seaweed and organic matter like GOGO Juice or liquid Seamungus can help improve your soil's water-holding capacity and the plant's ability to recover from stress.

Remember to water in the cool of the day – early morning is best. Deep and less frequent watering is most beneficial.

GOGO Juice is literally teeming with beneficial micro-biology and is essentially a pro-biotic for your soil and plants. It combines the “catalytic” power of providing a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria and fungi with the well documented benefits of applying kelp and humates.



Planting – all situations

Soils are generally still warm in April, which will help any new plants to develop roots and get a good head start on winter. More importantly, the roots they develop now will be the ones they rely on when summer comes around again, so you want them to develop well.

Using 100% certified organic Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Rooster Booster in the planting hole is recommended for any new plantings.

Using 100% certified organic Seamungus,



General Garden & Lawn

For those who wish to use certified organic products and/or prefer to simply use one general purpose fertiliser across your entire garden, you can use Bounce Back, Rapid Raiser, Seamungus or Rooster Booster on your garden, and Blade Runner on your lawn areas.



Flowering plants

Including roses, carnations, daisies, lavender and all other flowering plants

Now is the time feed your roses and all other flowering plants (except natives) with Sudden Impact for Roses. Watering in with GOGO Juice will encourage a faster uptake of the nutrients by the plant.

Sudden Impact for Roses is ideal for all flowering plants, not just roses. The balance and ratio of nutrients combined with the very best of raw materials are the secret to its success.



Non-flowering plants

Including lawns, hedges, bamboo, herbs, leafy green veggies and ferns

To get that beautiful lush growth which will be the envy of all, feed and water regularly. As we move into cooler weather, you can set your mower a little lower if you wish. Fertilise with Sudden Impact for Lawns and water in with GOGO Juice. Now is a great time to fix bare patches in your lawn. Top dress the patches with Seamungus and spread lawn seed over the area. Water it in using GOGO Juice.

Hedges:

A hedge loves a fertiliser with a higher nitrogen to potassium ratio, so Sudden Impact for Lawns is also great for hedging plants. Water in well with GOGO Juice, which will ensure you are populating your soil with beneficial bacteria. By “embracing the bugs” with GOGO Juice, you’ll be making sure that the bugs eat the organic fertiliser, which will ensure an even better result.



Potted flowering plants

Including orchids and any flowering plants in pots

Sprinkle some Strike Back for Orchids over any potted colour this season, as it's suitable for all potted fruiting and flowering plants, not just orchids. If you do, you'll be rewarded with cascades of colour over autumn and winter.



It's exciting when your orchids really start to perform. For the best flower spikes on your orchids, we recommend fertilising with Strike Back for Orchids two months prior to when they flower – that is, if your cymbidium orchid flowers in June, then April is the best time to start feeding. You'll have healthy growth and more flower spikes, with more flower buds per spike.

Strike Back for Orchids is available in a pellet form (used monthly) or the liquid form (used weekly).

Acid Loving Plants

Including camellias, gardenias, rhododendrons, azaleas and blueberries

Feeding now with Kahoona will satisfy any acid-loving plants' nutritional requirements without altering the pH of your soil. Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as camellias, gardenias, azaleas, daphne and rhododendrons. It's also great for blueberries!



The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development in acid loving plants, 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.

Veggies, Fruit & Citrus

Lightly tip-prune citrus trees to encourage new growth and spread Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit and Citrus around the drip zone of the plant. Apply Gyganic again after 8 weeks.

Why not plant a citrus in a pot? You can use Gyganic on established potted plants; the application rate is a quarter of that of a ground-grown plant.

Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus is specifically developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste. It is a premium organic based, chemically boosted complete fertiliser with the full range of nutrients in an organic form, coupled with boosted levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and magnesium.



Natives

Including phosphorous-sensitive natives such as grevilleas, banksias & proteas

Apply Bush Tucker to your winter flowering natives, and water in with GOGO Juice.

Winter-flowering natives include heathland plants, grevillea, hakea and wattle. They'll bring some color to your garden and the birds and bees will love them too.



Mulching

Applying mulch to your garden at this time of the year will not only help prevent new weeds from growing and keep the soil temperature more constant, but it will also give your plants a gentle nutrient boost.

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 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. Most significantly, Whoflungdung reduces, if not eliminates, the nitrogen draw-down which is often reflected in plants after mulch has been applied.



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.

