

The Pooh Bah Times



NEUTROG'S AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

Spring is nearly here - how wonderful is that thought! You've done the hard work of pruning and mulching throughout the last couple of months, and soon you'll be able to sit back and savour the fruits of your labour. August is a great time to get ready to fertilise your garden for spring. Depending on where you live, you may already have started.

We love to hear from our readers, so if you have any comments, require any assistance or would like to share something, please give us a call, an email or a message through our social media channels. One of the things which we know you all love to hear about is what other gardeners are having fun with in the garden, their successes and what interests them. There are the occasional failures too, but as gardeners, we love to hear how others have solved problems in their garden – we're a caring, sharing lot!

You can also be thinking about all of the wonderful summer veggies that will be ready shortly, as well as colour for spring. So get writing that fun shopping list – not the boring old grocery list – and make a note of all of the lovely things you need from your favourite place to shop.

Warm regards,

The Neutrog team.



Coming up

- Growing great veggies
- This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum
- What is eNcase?
- Neutrog Radio - Why natives need fertilising
- Angus Stewart debunks a myth
- International Update - Fertiliser in Fiji
- The hat & the wheelbarrow
- Centennial Park, Adelaide
- Sudden Impact for Lawns on Better Homes & Gardens
- The Biological Approach - plant hormones
- Year Round Fertilising Programme

Each month we have so many interesting stories we don't have enough space for here, but they do appear on our Facebook and Instagram feeds, so why not join us there?



Growing Great Veggies

Situated in the beautiful Adelaide Hills is Basket Range Farm. "We grow all of the usual summer veggies, including eggplant, celery, cucumber, zucchini and a range of tomatoes" said Felicity (*pictured*). "Each year we grow around 2 tonnes of tomatoes, and all excess produce is sold to local cafes and restaurants".

They don't do much in the way of winter crops aside from some cauliflower and broccoli, as most of the property is under water during winter.



"We love the Neutrog range" said Felicity. "Our practice at planting is as follows; Gyganic is incorporated throughout the soil, allowing the roots to grow down into the fertiliser.

We then regularly apply GOGO Juice for the beneficial bacteria, and Seamungus liquid for the benefits of seaweed, fish meal and kelp.

After planting, we mulch with Whoflungdung. Doing this provides veggies of an exceptional flavour, size and quality" concluded Felicity.



This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum

The Rare Fruit Society members have been busy in the Arboretum planting more trees including macadamia, Chandler Walnut (one of the best varieties) and walnut seedlings for grafting in the future. A white sapote (also known as ice cream fruit) has also been planted, and a quandong will be added shortly.

The trees have received a feed of [Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus](#), and [Whoflungdung](#) will be applied over the next couple of weeks.



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. Around 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 Fruit and Citrus - Specifically developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste, Gyganic for Fruit and Citrus 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 Fruit and Citrus is now recommended by the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia.



What is eNcase?

eNcase was originally developed to aid Neutrog in reducing the odour emissions emanating from the incoming raw poultry manure at Neutrog’s Kanmantoo site. Since its development, eNcase has proven to not only be extremely effective in reducing odour, but has also demonstrated to be very effective in enhancing and speeding up the composting process.



eNcase contains a wide diversity of naturally selected microbes (bacteria and fungi) well known for their ability to degrade organic materials. It is applied to all incoming organic materials, so that when you apply Neutrog products to your soil, the beneficial bacteria within eNcase readily proliferate and act as a deterrent to pathogenic bacteria by occupying the space that could otherwise be filled by pathogens.

Neutrog radio

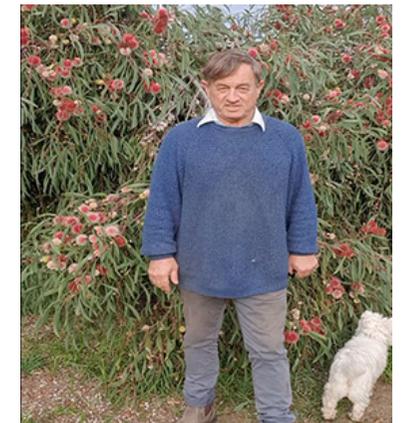
In this radio segment, microbiologist Dr. Uwe Stroehler chats to Graham Ross about the nutritional needs of natives and how specifically formulated [Bush Tucker](#) with reduced phosphate availability gives your natives a gentle feed which they love. [Click here to listen.](#) or visit neutrog.com.au/video-gallery.



Angus debunks a myth

Australian native plant expert, horticulturist, gardening author and former television presenter on Gardening Australia, Angus Stewart has spent a lifetime working with and breeding Australian native plants to make them more gardener friendly. Here’s a quick video of Angus explaining one of the greatest myths about native plants, and why it’s so important to fertilise them.

[Click here to watch](#) or visit neutrog.com.au/video-gallery.



“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*



International Update

Fertiliser in Fiji

The Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) is an intergovernmental organisation whose aim is to increase productivity in the Asia-Pacific region. Upon receiving a request seeking an expert in the processing of poultry waste into fertiliser to assist a Fijian poultry farm, the APO contacted the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), who recommended Neutrog's Managing Director, Angus Irwin.

Angus was a strong contender with his 32+ years of experience in poultry waste management, and was pleased and honoured to accept. The main objective of the project was to assist Fijian-based 'Future Farms', so that it could enhance its capacity and manage chicken litter by transforming it into a value-added commercial product. Future Farms holds about 30% of the poultry production market in Fiji, and generates 150 tons of chicken litter a week.



Another objective was to build the Future Farms brand by showing that it can create tangible positive changes by improving animal welfare and environmental management, reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as water and soil contamination, recycling nutrients, and developing updated policies and ultimately strategic directions. Angus made his first trip to Fiji in 2019.

His mandate was to review the current process for managing manure, to identify and suggest appropriate technology, processes and solutions for producing composted manure. He was also asked to identify opportunities and strategies to develop a market for the product, and to suggest appropriate management strategies to implement both production and marketing of the composted product.

"I spent a lot of time with the team from Future Farms, as I needed to understand their current processes and raw material" said Angus. "I also spent a fair bit of time understanding how the various farmers and growers were currently using the existing raw material. I had a terrific few days and the hosts were very generous with their time, enthusiasm for the project and hospitality—all of which made it very easy and enjoyable for me, and was much appreciated."

A follow up visit was made by Angus the following year, and Neutrog's Procurement Manager, David Ellis travelled to Fiji twice more, visiting farmers and Future Farms hatcheries.

Torrential and long-lasting rains caused delays with the project, however eventually the first batch of composted manure was ready for trial. David needed to undertake further research to identify key crops and growers who were currently using raw litter, and who would be interested in trialling a composted version, along with documenting the current timeframe of such applications in respect of subsequent plantings.

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Trial protocols had to be established of compost field trials on crops, comparing performance of compost against raw litter. Crops planned for trials included tomatoes, cucumber, several varieties of lettuce, capsicum and Chinese cabbage. During this time, Future Farms and Neutrog have been working closely with the Fiji Government body that oversees the composting and trial work.

The response from growers has been incredibly positive. One farmer in the Sigatoka Valley has divided a greenhouse shed in half and prepared the land before planting with one half mixed raw manure and the other half composted manure in order to plant cabbage seedlings. He has also prepared another 2 sheds, one for lettuce and one for cucumber. Both of these growing sheds will also be halved, allowing a comparison of the two types of manure. The same farmer also has a farm in Paipai Lautoka, which will also be used for the trial.

Another farmer in Maranitawa has also started trialling raw vs composted manure on a range of vegetables, and a farm in Teidamu is participating in the trial on citrus, sandalwood and sugar cane. This is a diverse and interesting trial which is showing some very positive results, namely, the elimination of weed seeds in the composted manure, as well as the security of growing with a pathogen free and clean product. We'll keep you posted on their progress.



The hat & the wheelbarrow

It's been said that a picture tells a thousand words...we're not so sure though, given this photo.

The farmer we were visiting recently (who'd purchased the property a few years ago) didn't know the story behind it, and we became very curious. Whatever could have happened here; to get a wheelbarrow and hat flattened and squished near the ceiling of a relatively brand-new shed?

It's just like when you see anything that's out of place and you wonder how on earth did that get there. What's the background? Why, how, who...we are still looking for the answer.

Centennial Park, Adelaide

Established in 1936, Centennial Park has a long and proud history of serving the community of South Australia, offering over 80 years of cultural diversity and history. There are over 150,000 people memorialised at Centennial Park throughout the beautiful gardens and burial areas. It is a lovely place to visit and remember loved ones.

Situated on 40 hectares, the cemetery has 30 themed gardens including a tropical island surrounded by water lilies, turtles and giant goldfish. A couple of lovely creeks are a feature of this native setting, and koalas can often be seen in the gums in this area.

The gardens are majestically bordered by 9km of tree lined avenues. Throughout Centennial Park, you will find over 8000 rose bushes, with over 150 varieties. Neutrog's [Rapid Raiser](#) is applied throughout the entire garden and is always used before mulching or re-mulching garden beds, which helps to break down the organic matter in the mulch.



[Meatworks Blood 'n' Bone](#) and [GOGO Juice](#) are both used in early spring on all newly planted advanced trees, which guarantees strong roots and therefore strong trees. Jason Lewis is Garden Design & Maintenance Supervisor at Centennial Park. "GOGO Juice is used regularly as we need beneficial bacteria in the soil to keep all gardens performing to their optimum, and GOGO Juice fits the bill for us" said Jason.

Neutrog's specialist native plant food [Bush Tucker](#) is applied to the native memorial gardens after the plants have finished flowering, and again in early Autumn. "Since using Bush Tucker on our natives, we've noticed that they flower so much better and the bushes are also stronger and healthier" said Jason.

"We also have a fabulous Camellia Avenue, and many magnolias. They are fertilised with [Kahoona](#) which works perfectly on our acid loving plants". The gardens also have swathes of wonderful green lawns. This spring, Jason will be trialling our yet-to-be-released 'Depth Charger' in some of the heavily thatched lawns where scarifying cannot be done due to below-ground irrigation. Depth Charger is Neutrog's biological control for reducing thatch, which is a great food source for bugs.

By early 2021, a contemporary café and function facility will be built at Centennial Park, which will provide brand new spaces for families and friends to gather either before or after a funeral, or whilst visiting and strolling through the picturesque gardens. If you are in the Adelaide metro area, a visit to this beautiful garden is a must.

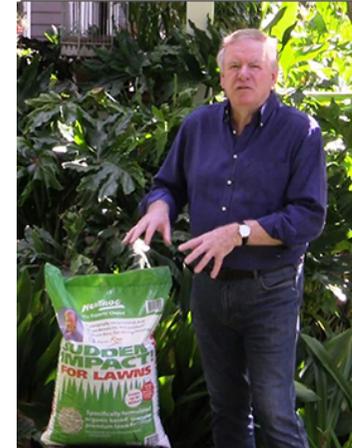


Better Homes & Gardens

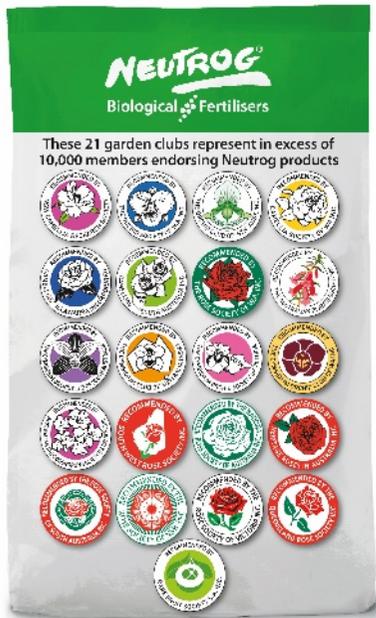
The Better Homes & Gardens team will be featuring Neutrog's [Sudden Impact for Lawns](#) on Friday 4th September.

Sudden Impact for Lawns is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser specifically developed for new and established lawns. Its high nitrogen to potassium ratio, coupled with its full range of macro and micro elements, including boosted levels of iron and magnesium (the primary nutrients that play a crucial role in the formation of chlorophyll, which is the substance that makes plants green) make this product ideal for all other non-flowering plants such as bamboo, conifers, palms and ferns (including those plants grown indoors).

Better Homes & Gardens



Collaborations



Over the years Neutrog has collaborated with many plant societies that have trialed 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.

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The Biological Approach

Dr. Uwe talks about plant hormones

In this article, Neutrog's Microbiologist and R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehrer delves into the science of plant hormones.



From the desk of Neutrog's resident microbiologist Dr. Uwe Stroehrer

Just like animals, plants are dependent on a set of hormones to regulate how they grow. How does a plant know where to grow roots? Why do plants grow at the tips, and where along a shoot do leaves emerge? All of these processes are regulated by hormones.

Plants growth is essentially regulated by five major hormones that the plants themselves produce, but surprisingly, three are also produced by microbes. Even the way fruit ripens is controlled by a hormone known as ethylene, which is the only known gaseous hormone. So how do these hormones influence plants?



It's the relative concentration and balance of these hormones that determines the growth of a plant. For root development, plants need a certain level of a hormone known as auxin, and a lower level of a hormone known as cytokinin, which causes plants to produce shoots. Auxin or indole-3 acetic acid is what is contained in the hormone rooting powders or gels that people use for propagation. Shoot development requires less auxins and more cytokinin. Another hormone known as gibberellin determines how large the distance is between nodes where leaves emerge. Gibberellin is produced by fungi and is being used to lengthen the nodes in sugar cane in order to store more sucrose.

Therefore, if you have bacteria in your soil that produce auxins for example, then you get much better root development, and if you have bacteria that produce cytokinin, you get better shoot growth. Ideally you want some of each, and nature has a great way of balancing these things out. These types of bacteria are known as plant growth-promoting bacteria. A lot of research is being done around the world as well as at Neutrog to identify and isolate these types of bacteria.

So, from a home gardener's perspective, how can we make use of this? It gets back to this idea that if you increase the diversity and number of microbes in your soil, then your chances of having some of these growth-promoting bacteria increases. So the use of composts and organic fertilisers (especially products like [Seamungus](#) which contain seaweed) are an ideal way to get your soil microbiology moving.

Interestingly, some of the potential benefits seen with seaweed may be due to the fact that it contains a number of plant growth hormones. Seaweed also contains an amino acid known as tryptophan, which bacteria use to make auxin. If you prefer to use a liquid, then [GOGO Juice](#) (which also contains significant amounts of kelp) is a great option, plus it also contains that diversity of bacteria and fungi. So there is a role that soil microbes play in the production of plant growth hormones, and the best way to ensure some of these end up in your soil is by applying Seamungus or GOGO Juice.



Year-Round Fertilising Programme

Why feed in winter?

At this time of the year when there's not much happening above ground, we recommend applying Seamungus to your entire garden (there's still plenty happening below the ground).

There are numerous benefits for doing this - Seamungus contains natural plant growth hormones which encourage strong root development (resulting in a greater root surface area for plants to take up nutrients), it encourages beneficial bacteria to populate and stimulate activity in the soil, and the seaweed component helps strengthen plant cell walls to cope with winter stress - particularly frost.



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

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.

Planting - all situations

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, and water in with liquid Seamungus or GOGO Juice.



General garden & lawn

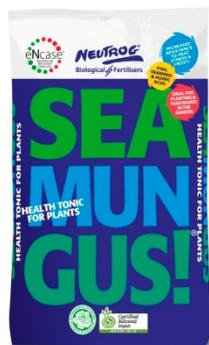
For those who wish to use certified organic products and/or prefer to simply use one general purpose fertiliser across your entire garden, you can use Bounce Back, Rapid Raiser, Seamungus or Rooster Booster on your garden, and Blade Runner on your lawn areas.



Flowering plants

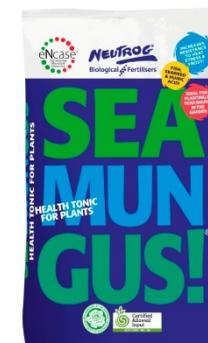
Including roses, carnations, daisies, lavender and all other flowering plants

Now is the time to give your flowering plants their winter feed of Seamungus before spring arrives. It will give them a boost when weather warms up. Make sure you water in well with GOGO Juice to activate the microbes in the soil.



Hedges

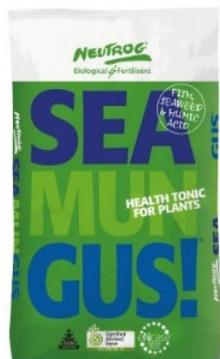
Hedges love a fertiliser which has a higher nitrogen to potassium ratio, so during the growing season we recommend applying Sudden Impact for Lawns. In winter however, it's best to apply Seamungus, watered in with GOGO Juice. This will ensure great growth when spring arrives.



Lawns & non-flowering plants

Including bamboo, herbs, leafy green veggies & ferns

Lawns are 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

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

Winter is a good time to feed established native plants. There are some gorgeous grevilleas, acacias and hakeas to choose from now - your local nursery has an ever-increasing range of these beauties.



Potted flowering plants

Including orchids and any flowering plants in pots

Sprinkle some Strike Back for Orchids over any plants in pots that flower in winter, such as cyclamen. Your plants in pots that don't flower in winter will appreciate a feed of Seamungus.



Acid Loving Plants

Including camellias, gardenias, rhododendrons, azaleas and blueberries

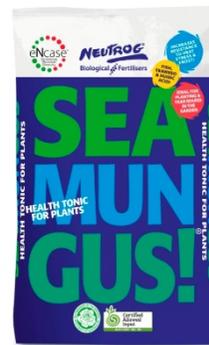
Now is the time to feed azaleas, magnolias, rhododendrons and blueberries with Kahoona, as they are either in bud or coming into bud over the coming weeks. The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development, whilst the boosted levels of iron and 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 camellias, daphne & gardenias will benefit from an application of Seamungus now, and followed up with Kahoona in spring.



Veggies, Fruit & Citrus

Some vegetables to plant now include carrots, rocket, parsley, asparagus, coriander and beetroot.

An application of ACO organic-certified Seamungus 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.



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.

Mulching

There are numerous benefits of applying Whoflungdung during winter:

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



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.



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