

The Pooh Bah Times



NEUTROG'S JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome to the July 'Pooh Bah Times'.

Winter is now well and truly with us and what a wonderful season it is, with plenty of jobs to do. The main one being the pruning of your roses and fruit trees, along with mulching.

Some of the lovely things happening in the garden are the early bulbs. Jonquils will be emerging and flowering by now. Their fragrance is a delight and they make such a pretty show whether they're in your garden or displayed in a vase.



Arum lilies are starting to flower in the colder areas, and they look great inside too. It won't be long before the flowering quinces put on their show. Imagine this – your jonquils, arums and quince all featuring in your garden and inside your home.

Did you know that some of the most deliciously scented plants flower in winter? If you're looking for something which catches your attention in winter, you can choose from lots of great plants including Witch Hazel, Daphne and Wintersweet. Make sure you read our feature article below called 'Winter Fragrance'.

We mentioned mulching in the last Pooh Bah Times and it's so relevant and important at this time of the year. Consider that the ground is generally quite moist and many plants are bare, which makes it easier to apply. If you have sandy soils, applying Whoflungdung in winter will give your soil microbes time to break it down and get some organic material into the soil, which will improve your water and nutrient-holding capacity.

Enjoy the lovely winter colour which is available at your garden centres. Maybe treat yourself to a vibrant cyclamen...there are so many colours to choose from and they last for so long. Do remember to put it outside at night though, as they don't appreciate our warm homes.

Have fun with vegetables and herbs too. Consider potting some up into containers that you can keep easily accessible to your kitchen; that way you can get your soup on and back to your fire and book.

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
- This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum
- Neutrog Radio - Avoiding sick soil disease
- Winter fragrance
- Evette says goodbye
- Flemington roses receive Seamungus
- A frosty morning at Kanmantoo
- The mulch horticulturalists swear by
- Feed & protect now for a headstart in spring
- Photography competition
- Year Round Fertilising Programme

Join the
Poooh Bah Club

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you can subscribe here too!



Growing Great Veggies

You may recall seeing our recent post on social media featuring Gavin and Sharon from Yarrawonga in Victoria. They had grown a 5.5kg sweet potato which was planted into Seamungus-enriched soil and fed with Gyganic for Veggies Fruit and Citrus, along with GOGO Juice. Here are their recently harvested purple sweet potatoes. Holy guacamole (sweet potato) Batman!



And Gyganic is definitely living up to its name with this huge lemon! Picked from a staff member's garden, the tree was fertilised with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus along with a monthly feed of GOGO Juice.

Weighing in at a hefty 664 grams (compared to a normal lemon of around 80 grams) there's a few G&T's in this one!

Another happy gardener has sent us in some photos of her lemons.

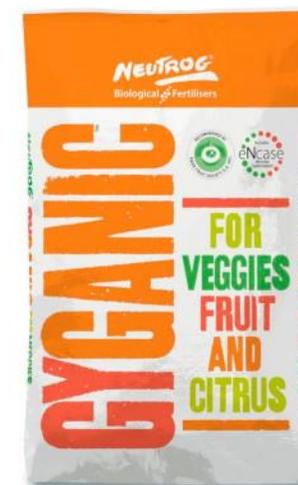
"There are two trees in my garden and they're about 50 metres apart" reported Tracy. "They are in the same soil and receive the same amount of sunlight and water; the only difference being is that the large lemon was fed with Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus and the other one was not!!"



Tracy weighed them and the result was 237gm versus 104gm - an increase in size of 127.88%. "Due to the size of my garden and the fact that I'm busy all of the time, some of my plants don't get the love they should, which was why one of the lemons missed out on a feed. Seeing this result means that I'll now find that little extra time and feed them both". Tracy said they both had the same yummy sour lemon taste and were wonderfully juicy as well.

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.



This month in the Rare Fruit Arboretum

The fruit trees in the arboretum are looking quite sparse without their leaves, but the Rare Fruit Society members are happy with the growth. This month the members will be conducting 2 working bees in order to prune the trees, plant more varieties such as peaches, plums, apples and nectarines, and finally to pull out some rootstocks that haven't taken.

Winter has seen the fruit trees receive an application of Seamungus followed with GOGO Juice, and will be followed up soon with a blanket of Whoflungdung and a feed of Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus late winter/early spring. Even the local birds are enjoying the arboretum, building a nest in one of the trees.



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.

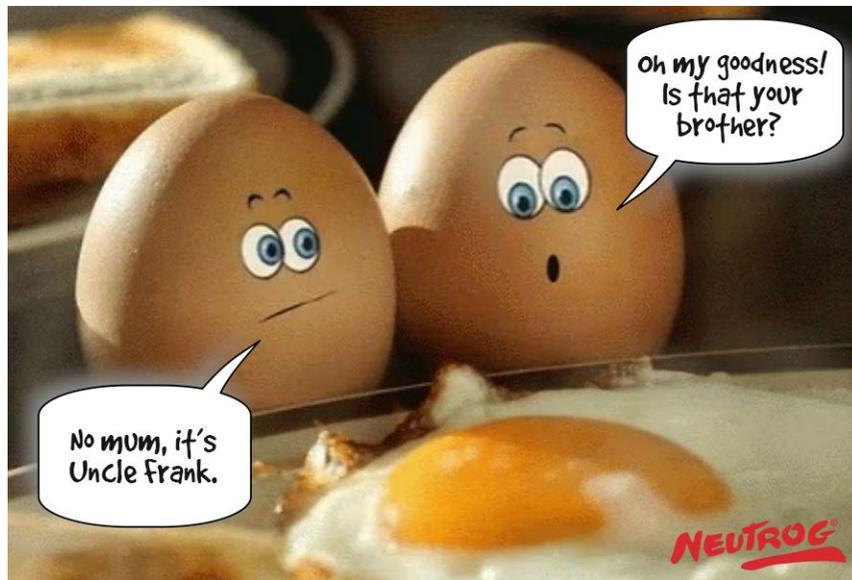


Neutrog radio

Many gardeners, particularly those that grow roses, would know about sick soil or replant disease. In essence, if you put a plant into a hole where the same type of plant was previously, often the new plant does not perform well, and can wither and die. However, when you replant from a different family of plants, it does well.

In this radio segment, microbiologist Dr. Uwe Stroehler chats to Graham Ross about how to overcome sick soil disease.

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



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*



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www.neutrog.com.au



Winter Fragrance

Did you know that some of the most deliciously scented plants flower in winter? If you're looking for something that catches your attention in winter, then there's a great variety of plants you can choose from.

Witch Hazel is lovely. The flowers appear clustered along the bare stems and their dainty "ribbon like" yellow flowers are sweetly scented. Witch Hazel originates from China and there are a few varieties in this family, but the prettiest and most fragrant is *Hamamelis mollis*. A mature Witch Hazel in full bloom is a sight to behold.

Witch Hazel is a deciduous shrub that does well in mountainous areas with excellent drainage, where it receives dappled or morning sunlight. Protection from hot summer winds would be of benefit as well. If you think such a position in your garden would be tricky, then consider planting into a large pot so that you can control the environment to a certain extent.



Witch Hazel



Wintersweet

Chimonanthus praecox, also known as Wintersweet is another beauty. Wintersweet also carries yellow flowers with a brown centre and has a rich spicy fragrance, and also originates from China. It too, is deciduous. Reaching a height of 3-4 metres, it might be just the plant to fill a gap in your garden. Wintersweet also loves good soil preparation and is a robust plant – occasionally seen in old gardens.

And don't forget the old-fashioned Woodbine – *Lonicera fragrantissima*. You won't likely notice the creamy coloured flowers, but you'll notice the scent! This is another fantastic plant as it's very hardy and will grow pretty much anywhere.

Woodbine has a rather straggly habit and can reach over 2 metres. Pruning after flowering keeps it looking neater, but if you love the rambling cottage look, then this is one to add to your list.

We cannot talk about winter fragrance without mentioning the glorious *Daphne odora* – and we all know how good that smells! *Daphne* can be one of those plants which seem to deliberately taunt gardeners – so many people say they just can't get it to grow. Our recommendation is to find a spot which receives morning sun.



Woodbine

Continued next page...

Good drainage is important for Daphne's, along with protection from the wind – perhaps against a wall. Daphne also does extremely well in pots. A great way to keep your daphne compact and flowering well is to pick when in flower. This brings the joy inside and will save you the need to do any further trimming. As Daphne flowers in winter, feed in late summer with Kahoona to get the best show.



Daphne odora



Jonquils

Lastly, mass plantings of bulbs always catch one's eye. Jonquils brighten and cheer up patches in the garden, not only with their colour, but their gorgeous scent. They are also a pleasant reminder warmer weather is just around the corner.

Jonquils and other bulbs also do equally well in pots, should your space be limited.

To give your plants a great head start, incorporate plenty of Seamungus throughout the soil prior to planting, and apply GOGO Juice every fortnight.

So a visit to your garden centre in winter is not just about cyclamen, winter veggies and flowers. Choose a lovely sunny morning to visit, and prepare your nose for the delights of winter fragrant plants.

About Kahoona



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, rhododendrons and fuchsias.

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.

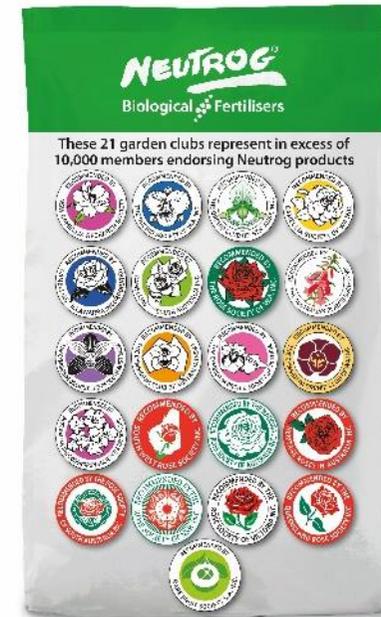
Following successful trials, Kahoona has been endorsed by Camellias South Australia, the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch), the Camellia Society of WA, Camellias Illawarra and the NSW Camellia Research Society.



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 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.



Evette says goodbye

It is with sadness that we recently said goodbye to Evette Franklin, who decided to retire from her position as Sponsorship Co-Ordinator at Neutrog.

Evette has been with Neutrog for 8 years, and is much loved by all who have come into contact with her, including many members of our endorsing societies and garden clubs. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family.

Flemington roses receive Seamungus

We believe that plants are like humans, in that a regular source of nutrition year-round is much better than one big feed in spring. Proof of this is evident in the beauty and health of the gardens that are fed year-round rather than once a year – simply because the plants are getting a regular source of nutrition.

Flemington Racecourse is no exception - the staff apply various Neutrog products at least once in each season. We've been chatting with Mick Ryan, who is Senior Manager of Grounds and Gardens at the famous racecourse. He's been spreading about 2,000kg of Seamungus on the 16,500 roses recently. Clearly the sap has stopped flowing in the roses, they're not growing or flowering, so why do the plants need the nutrition?

"We apply Seamungus in winter to condition the soil" said Mick. He then had a huge belly laugh and said "I think of it as like using conditioner on your hair because you want lovely bouncy hair, and Seamungus makes the soil bounce. In complete seriousness though, the soil needs nutrition over winter and I am also ensuring that our soils are biologically active. This means that the roses will take off incredibly well when we apply our first feed of Sudden Impact for Roses in spring; I wouldn't even consider not treating the soil over winter" concluded Mick.

And there, dear readers – pardon the pun – but you have it from the horse's mouth.



From left to right: Mick Ryan and Stephen Campbell

A frosty morning at Kanmantoo

This early morning photo shows a manure pile being turned. The extensive manure pad at Kanmantoo covers approximately 60,000 square metres.



The mulch horticulturalists swear by

For 37 years, Susan Parsons has contributed weekly columns to 'The Canberra Times' with gardening and food being constant themes. Recently she wrote about Whoflungdung.

The Canberra Times

“Dr Uwe Stroehler is a microbiologist and the manager of research and development at Neutrog and he explained a relatively new garden mulch/fertiliser to me.

Called Whoflungdung, it has been recommended by Canberra horticulturists and the longtime staff in the garden section of Bunnings, Fyshwick, who say they use nothing else. As I queued with a big bag, a woman ahead of me had three bags in her trolley and said every time she goes to the store she buys more.

The product was named by Angus Irwin, the owner of Neutrog, who invents all their product names. Neutrog was formed in 1988 at Kanmantoo, 60 kilometres southwest of Adelaide. Kitchen gardeners will be familiar with their GOGO Juice of kelp and other seaweed and Gyganic, an organic based, biological fertiliser for fruit and veges that is used to enhance fruit size.

The mulch was trialled for a number of years at various locations, including the rose gardens in the Adelaide City parklands and the kitchen garden at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, where the results were spectacular, with the soil becoming more friable and easier to dig over and seemed to maintain its structure. and a large area in the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens where, he said, the climate is probably a little closer to that of Canberra.

Like most mulches, Whoflungdung reduces water usage and suppresses weeds but, due to its partially digested nature, it stimulates the soil microbiology through the correct balance of carbon and nitrogen. The most important thing with the product is to water it in well.

During the trial, Dr Stroehler used it 30 to 40 millimetres deep in his own garden in the Adelaide foothills. On a sloping block the water repellent nature of the soil around evergreen Alders improved and it reduced evaporation so the trees suffered less heat stress. Autumn is a good time to apply it to retain soil warmth to help establish plants. In summer it keeps water usage down and protects the soil from extreme heat, particularly for citrus.

His garden gets very warm in summer and is cool enough in winter to grow cherries, apples and stone fruit and he puts the mulch/fertiliser around them in winter when it has a stimulatory effect on soil biology. His unattended strawberry patch suffered in summer so this is now a soil-rich raspberry growing area.

The soil in his vegetable patch is fed gently from autumn to winter but keeps it away from the stems of plants and seedlings to avoid rot. A proclaimed lazy gardener, Dr Stroehler is growing lettuce, beetroot, silverbeet, radishes, brassicas including cauliflower and Brussels sprouts, and peas on an area exposed to winter sun. Harvesting is underway for some of the crops.”



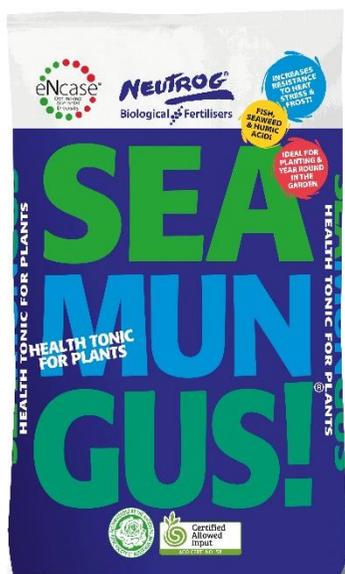
Feed & protect now for a headstart in spring

Winter is upon us, and for those who love to garden there is much to be done.

Aside from the well-known winter jobs such as pruning and planting of bare rooted roses and deciduous trees and shrubs, there is still the soil to consider. In most areas of Australia there's not much happening above ground in your garden during the winter months, but there's still plenty happening below ground.

Even soil microbes – bacteria and fungi that live in the soil year-round – can be active in winter months. As the soil temperature drops bacterial and fungal activity decreases but it doesn't stop.

According to Neutrog's Microbiologist and R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehrer, "For every 10°C degree drop in temperature there is about a 2 to 3 fold reduction in the rate at which microbes work (much like your plants slowing down during winter), although the microbes will still break down organic matter and multiply in the soil. In addition, during the colder months, plants produce less sugars, so they can't afford to feed the soil microbes to the same degree, so everything in your soil slows down. Even so, the microbes still need a source of nitrogen and carbon, which is where Seamungus comes into its own.



Without applying some level of these nutrients and with the bacteria and fungi in the soil removing nutrients (especially nitrogen) over winter, these nutrients can become scarce for plants coming into spring. So giving a gentle feed via a soil conditioner like Seamungus helps to ensure that when spring does arrive, your soil's nutrient balance is ready for your plants".

Years ago it was common to only fertilise in spring, but apart from feeding microbes, there are other numerous benefits of applying Seamungus at this time of the year. 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 plants to cope with winter stress – particularly frost.

Additionally, by applying Seamungus to your entire garden now, the soil will be taking in all of that seaweed and chicken poo goodness, but what does that mean in real terms for your garden? It means that as soon as winter slows down and we move into spring, everything in the garden is ready to flourish as there's an instant level of nutrition that the plants will be able to use. The results are that impressive!

It's also incredibly beneficial to soak any bare-rooted plant in a Seamungus solution for 24-48 hours before planting – particularly bare rooted roses. "Doing this allows the plant to re-hydrate and stimulate the roots into growth" says Gavin Woods, Past President of the Rose Society of South Australia and the National Rose Society of Australia.

Photography competition

If you're a keen amateur photographer and a member of a garden club affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia, we have word of a wonderful photography competition happening right now. It's all about nature – gardens, flowers, vegetables, birds, bees and bugs.

Garden Clubs of Australia are a non-profit organisation that provides a range of services to affiliated garden club members. They have a current membership of 720 affiliated clubs from around the country, representing more than 45,000 individuals.

So, if you've got some great photos, Garden Clubs of Australia would love to see them.



One of last year's winning photos by Margaret Purdon from the Beecroft District Garden Club in NSW.

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

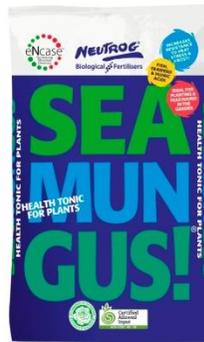
Winter is the perfect time for planting! Use Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Rooster Booster for any new plantings. Make sure the hole is at least twice the size of the root ball. Throw some pellets into the hole and mix through the soil, and water in with liquid Seamungus or GOGO Juice.



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.



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.

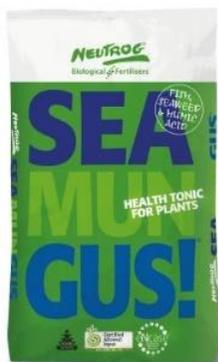


Lawns & non-flowering plants

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.



Acid Loving Plants

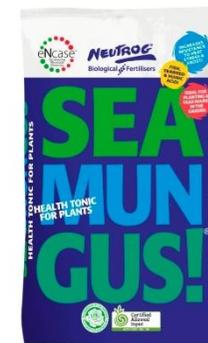
Including camellias, gardenias, rhododendrons, azaleas and blueberries

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.



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.



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

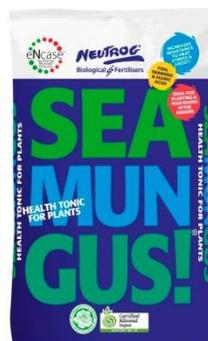
Sprinkle some Strike Back for Orchids over any plants in pots that flower in winter, such as begonias and hellebores. For your plants in pots that don't flower in winter such as fuchsias, they will appreciate a feed of Seamungus.



Veggies, Fruit & Citrus

Some winter vegetables that will grow well in drier parts of Australia include broad beans, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, peas, potatoes, garlic and spinach.

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.



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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 dra
- 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.

