



Dear Readers,

This month's commercial newsletter we feature a turf renovation project with R&D partner Flemington Race Course, look at a new piece of plant being prepared for install in the Neutrog factory in 2022 which is set to bring significant benefits for commercial growers.

Following on from our successful trial of the new advanced GOGO Juice formula at Freshwater farms, we have now embarked on a new phytophthora trial with Stangate House, South Australia.

We know many of our distributors, partners and growers will be taking the opportunity to have a break over the holidays and we would like to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

If you need anything over the holidays, please check the base of this email regarding our closing dates and contact details.

Kind Regards,
The Neutrog Team



Renovations in the Mounting Yard at Flemington Racecourse

Looking after the turf and plants at one of the most prestigious racecourses in the country requires dedication and patience, something the horticultural team at Flemington Racecourse, R&D partners with Neutrog, have in abundance.

After a successful racing season, Mick Ryan, Stephen Campbell, Daniel Neville and the horticultural team have started renovations in the mounting yard in preparation for another successful season in 2022.

This project will be taking on three different areas of the mounting yard including the replacement of roses, the establishment of new plantings and the replacement of the turf. Many of the roses were in need of replacement as they were past their prime. The old plants have been removed, Seamungus was added to condition the soil and then the new roses were planted. To complement the new roses, the existing hedge has also been removed and replanted. Dutch Box hedges, *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*, was chosen due to its hardiness and predictable, steady growth.

The most significant element of the project is the improvement of the 1000 square metres of turf in the mounting yard, which apart from the track itself, is a highly visible, high traffic area of turf that needs to be in excellent condition. The existing turf had been failing to drain properly so it was removed right back to the sandy loam soil underneath and new irrigation was installed throughout all areas.

A mixture of Santa Ana couch mixed in with rye was chosen for this area and in preparation, 300kg of Bounce Back was applied over the soil. This rate is higher than the recommended application rate for Bounce Back, but the Flemington horticultural team had identified the need to significantly improve the organic content in the soil hence the higher rate.

One of the benefits of a product such as Bounce Back is that it will deliver a boost when applied at the recommended rate, but can be increased, as in this instance without having an adverse effect on immature plants.

The application of a biologically activated, organically based product will give the turf of the Flemington Mounting Yard a well-structured growing environment with plenty of microbial activity.



High Volume Coating Plant on Track for Installation to the Neutrog Production Line



Innovation in the manufacturing of our products has led to the development and planned install of a new Buhler Coating Drum in 2022.

As a manufacturer of both pelleted and liquid biological fertilisers there has always been the consideration for how we could develop ways to combine the two.

Further developments in the last 12 months with the identification and isolation of specific bacteria and fungi has further progressed our commitment to creating products that give end users the convenience of our biological fertiliser pellets, but with the customised addition of beneficial microbes coated on those pellets to order.

Once installed the Buhler Coating Drum will enable Neutrog to simultaneously coat our pelleted products with up to three different liquids – with a liquid addition rate of up to eight percent of the product throughout.

Following composting and pelleting on site, our biological products would be continuously fed into the coating drum, which then gently turns the pellets through a series of flights as the drum rotates.

During the rotations, our liquid range of biological soil probiotics would be uniformly sprayed onto the pellets through a spray pipe. The quantity of liquid that is applied to the pellets can be varied as required and then the application is controlled by an automated system, ensuring consistency. An inclination on the entire drum allows the pellets to then travel down to the outlet.

Based on the drum capacity and our estimated coating rates, we anticipate being able to coat up to 15 tonnes per hour.

Other features of the coating drum that align with our production standards include the highest level of sanitation between batches to ensure no risk of cross contamination and simple coupling for the input of liquids meaning minimal production downtime between batches.

Currently, the Coating Drum is off site at MechVac being fitted for a frame which will allow easy integration into our existing plant and safe access for our production team.

The installation of this equipment represents an exciting start to 2022 and, more importantly, a fantastic opportunity for Neutrog to supply completely unique, customisable biological products.

If you would like to know more about this project or register your interest in a trial of these coated pellets in 2022, please contact your Neutrog representative.

Phytophthora Trials Continue at Stangate House

Phytophthora continues to be one of Australia's most serious plant pathogens, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in lost production across the wide spectrum of plant based industries. Of the more than 50 species of Phytophthora recorded worldwide, over 20 percent are present in Australia.

Recently, Neutrog's Dr Uwe Stroehler has been working with two organisations that have been tackling Phytophthora outbreaks with early indications pointing to the capacity of our Advanced Formula GOGO Juice to achieve a positive impact.



There were significant improvements in the condition of the lemon myrtle trees at Freshwater Farm in this trial.

The first trial took place at Freshwater Farm in NSW in early 2021. After 12 months of very wet weather, 3 groups of their lemon myrtle plantation started to rapidly deteriorate.

Director of Freshwater Farm, Allan Hutcherson, sent soil samples to the Department of Primary Industries, where *Phytophthora cryptogea* was identified as the present pathogen.

After contacting Neutrog for support, Dr Uwe prepared a 20L drum of the Advanced Biological Formula of GOGO Juice and sent it off to Freshwater Farm for trial on the affected plants.

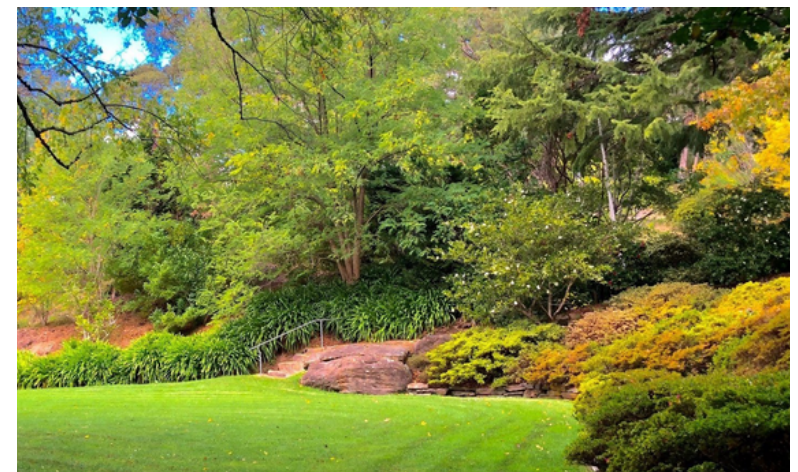
The results were visible, with a significant improvement in the quality of the foliage and the increased volume of new growth on the affected plants.

Allan and his team are now preparing to trial our 2022 commercial liquid product release POPUL8

Off the back of the Freshwater Farms trial, Neutrog were contacted by the National Trust of South Australia regarding a significant *Phytophthora* outbreak at Stangate House in the Adelaide hills.

Stangate House & Garden is part of the National Trust of South Australia, who actively conserve, manage and promote South Australia's indigenous, natural, built, historic heritage and culture, and does so as a community-based, not-for-profit, non-government organisation.

Built in the 1940's, Stangate House overlooks one of the most beautiful camellia gardens in Australia, recognised by the International Camellia Society in 2012 as an International Camellia Garden of Excellence.





Phytophthora at Stangate House & Garden

However, to the concern of the National Trust, the camellia garden is currently experiencing an outbreak of Phytophthora. Dr Uwe Stroeher subsequently made a visit to the garden to assess its suitability for a trial using specifically identified bacteria and fungi.

"Many of the camellias were looking very sick and some had lost a significant number of leaves. Others showed very obvious signs of distress including yellowing of the leaves. Considering this is the time of the year when camellias normally put on a lot of new glossy green growth, this was not the case for many of the plants." said Dr Uwe.

"With the impact on the plants already apparent, the committee of Stangate House agreed there was little to lose and a lot to gain, by commencing a trial. We have begun by treating a number of the plants with either POPUL8 or GOGO Juice Advanced Biological Formula - both of which contain our potential biocontrol agents against a range of plant diseases." said Dr Uwe.

One of the areas being treated was divided into three sections. One section was the control where nothing was applied, the second section received an application of GOGO Juice Advanced Biological Formula, and the last received an application of POPUL8.

The trials in both NSW and in the Adelaide Hills will continue over the coming months.

If you would be interested in participating in a trial with Neutrog, please contact your representative or our Head Office on 08 8538 3500.

Welcoming Craig Harnett as Neutrog's New General Manager (Sales)



With 25 years of experience in the agricultural sector, Craig Harnett has brought his strong commercial and retail experience to a new role with Neutrog.

As General Manager (Sales), Craig will be working closely with the retail and commercial teams to create and grow opportunities for Neutrog and its customers across all markets nationally and in export.

Since starting in in early November, he has participated in many facets of the business. Craig looks forward to spending much of 2022 meeting Neutrog's regional commercial customers to better understand their businesses and put faces to names.

Having already been a Neutrog user as a home gardener and commercial grower, Craig says "I am very familiar with the Neutrog journey and look forward to being a part of a sustainable success story."

For more information about Neutrog products, please contact our team.

Neutrog products are also suitable for the home garden, and you can find out more by signing up to receive our monthly retail newsletter for stories from gardening experts, product profiles and seasonal fertilising guides for home gardens.

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email marketing@neutrog.com.au



SA
John Paynter
0448 666 088



VIC, NSW & TAS
Julie Walker
0488 254 550



SA & NT
Andrew Duffield
0448 881 619



WA & QLD
Brian Klepzig
0417 580 817



NEUTROG AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
288 MINE ROAD, KANMANTOO SA 5252
WWW.NEUTROG.COM.AU