FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Readers,

In this month's newsletter:

-Interim horticultural trial results for POPUL8 with Tom Shearer from Elders
- A new freeze dryer for storage of bacteria & fungi in the Neutrog laboratory, and
-Landscaping and Grasstree recovery in Western Australia with Grasstrees Australia.

In 2022, our commercial team are looking forward to less 'at-home' isolation and more 'on-the-road' interaction!

As part of getting back out and about, they are working with Dr Uwe Stroeher, our Head of R&D and Juhee Hada our R&D Assistant, to collect soil samples from a range of locations around Australia. These soil samples will be screened to identify and isolate beneficial microbes that can be tested and then stored for future use. If you'd be interested in participating, please let a member of our team know.

We look forward to seeing you during the year.

Kind Regards,
The Neutrog Team

Successful POPUL8 Trial on Capsicum Crop

Neutrog's most advanced biological product, POPUL8 continues to be used in trials with R&D Partner Elders in advance of it's wider release in 2022.

National Category Manager Specialties at Elders, Tom Shearer sent in these photos showing some of the effects that POPUL8 has had on a capsicum crop in an ongoing commercial trial.

POPUL8 has been specifically developed for commercial growers looking to utilise the benefits of individual bacteria and fungi in inhibiting pests and disease, increasing nutrient availability and promoting growth.

These interim results are an exciting development in the trial which coincides with other trials also being conducted in lettuces, apples, vineyards and table grapes.

Tom reported that the most remarkable aspect to date was the distinctly noticeable improvements within 4-6 weeks of application — with the capsicums, there is better colour, more flowers, less wilting and advanced growth.

In the lettuces, similar results have been recorded with, better colour, leaf formation and advanced growth.

Clearly some very positive early signs and we look forward to seeing how these trials progress.

Developed and manufactured exclusively by Neutrog, POPUL8TM is an Advanced Biological Formula, that contains a base microbiome of 200+ naturally selected species of bacteria and fungi.

In addition, a further 40 specially selected bacteria and fungi have been identified, isolated and added for their specific purpose and beneficial characteristics. These include bacteria and fungi capable of supressing plant pathogens, producing plant growth hormones and enhancing the liberation of nutrients such as potassium and phosphorous.

POPUL8 is designed to not only enhance plant growth and nutrient cycling but also to populate and occupy the biological space in the soil and on the plant roots which may otherwise be an available space for plant pathogens to inhabit...Hence it's name POPUL8.

New Freeze Dryer for Neutrog's Laboratory

Another addition coming soon to Neutrog's Laboratory is a Lyovapor L-200 Freeze Dryer. This is a high quality laboratory freeze drying system for a wide range of applications.

Freeze drying, or lyophilisation, is a commonly used method for preserving a range of items including food and pharmaceutical product.

This process involves placing a frozen sample under a vacuum to remove water or other solvents. The liquid within the organisms is turned into a gas without going through a liquid phase.

After being freeze dried, the dry microbes are stored in glass vials under a vacuum within the freeze drying unit. The microorganisms will be in a state of suspended animation that can be woken up and regrown even after many years have passed.

In Neutrog's case, Head of R&D Dr Uwe Stroeher and Research Assistant Juhee Hada will be using it for preserving bacterial and fungal cultures that may be needed for future research.

**"This is best described as our very own 'bug bank'.
The freeze drying of our microbial collection is essential to ensure that
we have access to the same bacteria and fungi for many years to come." says Dr Uwe.**

Phytophthora Trials Continue at Stangate House

Grasstrees Australia have been rescuing the endangered Western Australian native Grasstrees and Zamia palms for over 30 years under license from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

With city living expanding to Perth's hills and surrounding bushland and land being cleared for rural living, Grasstrees and Zamia palms have become casualties in the process. Grasstrees Australia have taken on the challenge of rescuing these endangered plants, many of which are hundreds of years old.

They have recently relocated their premises to a new space in Middle Swan in the heart of the Swan Valley where they have developed a state of the art nursery facility tailored to their rescuing and stabilizing processes. This new site is also complete with a brand new retail nursery for the public to visit.

The process used by Grasstrees Australia to extract, transport and nurture the trees has been perfected over many years. Once extracted from their natural habitat, the plants are transported to their nursery where they are nurtured for 12-18 months. This process ensures the plants are nursed through their transplant shock phase and develop a healthy new root system prior to relocation.

In an interesting turnaround, some of the rescued trees are replanted in their original environment where they were first rescued from, as developers incorporate the native plantings back into their development plans. The remainder are supplied to the public, government projects, land and property developers, local councils, nurseries, and the interstate and international export market.

The experienced team at Grasstrees Australia are best known for their high transplant success rate.

Since trials back in 2011, Seamungus has become the major element in the development of new root systems in the nursery stage and the installation process.

Seamungus was tested extensively in the nursery with the results giving Justin, Leanne and their team the confidence to use it on a commercial basis and recommend it to their clients for ongoing fertilization of grasstrees during their establishment.

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

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