



# The Pooh Bah News

## Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

Autumn is a beautiful time of the year to be in the garden. There is still warmth in the soil to allow new plantings to flourish before the conditions cool down completely, so now is an ideal time to head into your local garden centre and plan any new additions to your garden or potted collection.

In all situations, even autumn, you will need to prepare your soil before planting. Simply incorporate Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Rooster Booster throughout the soil and water in well with GOGO Juice. When the planting is finished, don't forget a layer of our supermulch, Whoflungdung, and feed with Human Beans or Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus once established.

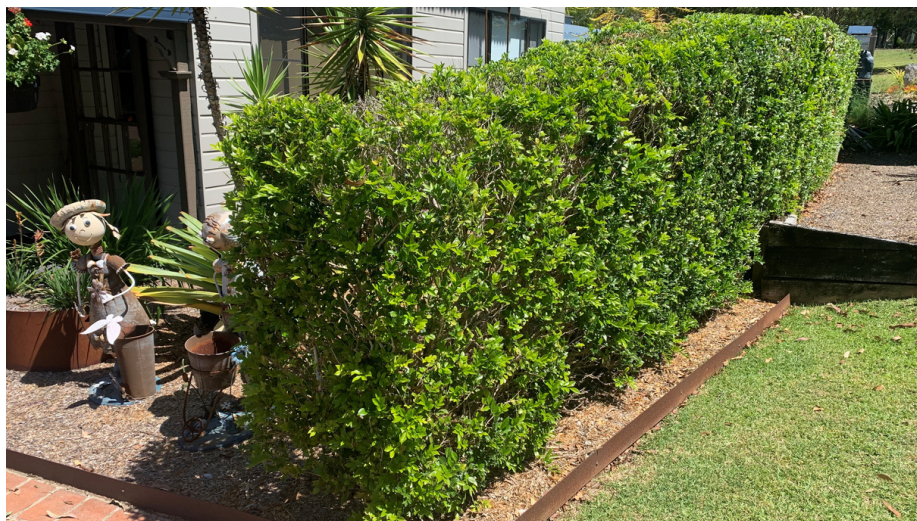
This month we show you some exciting stories from the Neutrog Laboratory, including the process to prepare microbes for genome analysis. We also feature some great results with POPUL8 on a 20 year old Murraya hedge in NSW, we catch up with Roslyn and Anthony from Old Post Office Farm and we update you on all of the projects currently being undertaken at the Adelaide Botanic Garden.

As always, we encourage you to visit our social media pages for more news and stories throughout the month. Our community has a wealth of information, and our team are also happy to answer any product of garden queries you have.

**Happy gardening!**  
**The Neutrog Team**



# Photo of the Month / POPUL8 Triumph on Murraya Hedges



**A lot of people ask us “What should I expect to see after I use POPUL8?” and obviously, that can be a tricky one to answer due to so many variables. But these photos are a great example that reflects a lot of the feedback that we have received to date.**

Neutrog customer Garry from NSW decided to conduct his own ‘at-home’ trial of POPUL8 on his 20 year old Murraya hedge. With sparse foliage, the hedge was noticeably struggling to maintain vigor and put on new growth.

“I would have taken the plants out before... I have recommended POPUL8 to anyone I know for what it will do to the soil,” says Garry.

Remember when comparing these photos that POPUL8 is NOT a fertiliser – so this is not a comparison between plants that have been ‘fed’ and those that haven't.

POPUL8 has given the plants a potent blend of over 200 naturally occurring microbes plus 42 individual beneficial bacteria and fungi, which work on many levels to help plants thrive by liberating nutrients in the soil, helping to increase resilience to pathogens.

**POPUL8 is now available at your local Bunnings, Mitre10 and independent retailers.**

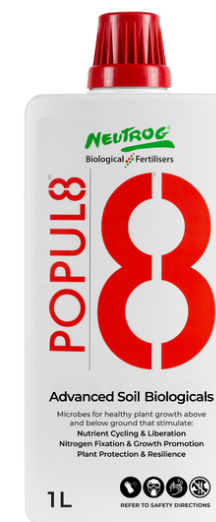
## Application Rates

Dilute one capful (40mL) of POPUL8 per 10 litres of water which will cover up to 8m<sup>2</sup> of soil. Water in well.

Apply POPUL8 once per season to protect and enhance plant health and growth, or apply to plants stressed by an event, such as heat, flood and drought or pests and disease.

Use POPUL8 during low UV or prior to a rain event if possible (UV and extreme hot, dry conditions will kill many of the microbes).

Store POPUL8 in a cool place away from direct sunlight. Shake well before use. Do not mix with other fungicides or bactericides. Use diluted POPUL8 within one (1) week of dilution.



# Site News / What's happening at Neutrog?

## Visitors at Neutrog's Kanmantoo Factory and Laboratory



At Neutrog, we get very excited for opportunities to show passionate gardeners exactly what goes into a bottle of an advanced biological liquid or a bag of your favourite biological fertiliser.

Last month we had the pleasure of hosting three different groups for tours of our manufacturing facility and laboratory, including members of the Gawler Veteran Vintage Classic Car Club and the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia.

We were also pleased to host over 50 members of the Rose Society of South Australia for their monthly meeting followed by a light lunch and a tour.

**If you are part of a group and have an interest in gardening, we encourage you to get in touch with our team to organise a tour! Bookings can be made by contacting our office on (08) 8538 3500 or email [info@neutrog.com.au](mailto:info@neutrog.com.au)**



## March Company Lunch at Neutrog

As another month passes us by, so to does another company lunch, and in March we welcomed some very special guests including Chris and Glenys from the Australian Plant Society VIC, Joe and Nick from Hollards and Craig, Ashley, Chris, Maddi, Elsa and Mitchell from Farmer Johns Murray Bridge.

The afternoon went off without a hitch, with members enjoying a bus tour around the factory and newly upgraded production facilities, followed by a presentation with Dr Uwe Stroehrer in the laboratory to understand the science behind the work we undertake at Neutrog.



# Site News / What's happening at Neutrog?



## New Warehouse Machinery Arrives

2023 has so far been a big year for our warehouse and production crews with significant upgrades enabling more efficient manufacturing and storage processes.

In our warehouse, new pallet racking was added in January to increase storage capacity of retail and commercial products. These necessary additions have resulted in pallet racks being closer together, requiring reach trucks to access products in the narrow aisles.

This month our Warehouse Manager, Leigh, was very excited to meet with Derek from Toyota to receive the keys for one of two new reach trucks.



## NEW 3KG Rooster Booster & Human Beans Now in Bunnings!

The time has finally come for the new 3KG Rooster Booster and 3KG Human Beans to enter Bunnings stores.

Human Beans represents a project that is seven years in the making, with the two products also being the first products of this kind in Australia to be packaged in 100% recyclable paper.

Keep an eye out for these products in the gardening aisle at your local Bunnings store this month!

# Product of the Month / Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus



**If you haven't already, now is an ideal time to begin planting vegetables and fruit while the soil is still holding warmth. Your plants will have ample time and ideal conditions to establish, and with a regular feed with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus, you can ensure they thrive.**

Those who received our monthly planting guide may have noticed the incredible variety of fruits and vegetables that are suitable for planting this time of year. Avocado, beetroot, broccoli, cauliflower, pawpaw, and shallots just to name a few - but be sure to pick varieties that are right for your climate zone.

If starting your garden from scratch, determine where your garden will be positioned and opt for a space that is full sun. You will also need a well-drained soil and ensure it is free from root competition. A bonus if you can position it close to the kitchen to make it easier to sneak out for fresh produce while you cook!

A well prepared soil makes the best base for your fruits and vegetables to thrive, so before planting incorporate Gyganic throughout the loose soil and water in well. By adding it to the soil at planting, you are setting your garden up for success by ensuring that your plants have adequate nutrients to establish and develop strong root systems.

After planting and once your plants have established, feed with Gyganic every 8 weeks to enhance fruit size, quality and taste.



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 endorsement provides gardeners with the confidence to use and recommend Gyganic.



## Autumn / Planting Your Citrus

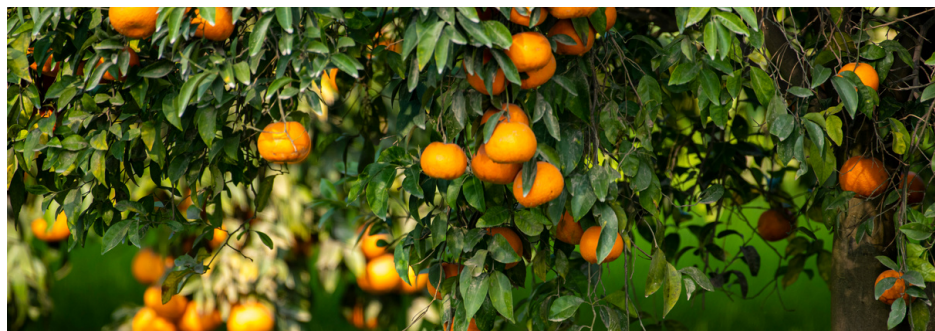


**Citrus form the largest fruit crop in the world and autumn is a fantastic time to introduce one of the members of the citrus family into your garden. Most people associate spring with planting, but autumn is a fantastic time for planting citrus because the soil is still warm enough to stimulate root growth and give the plant a head start coming into winter.**

There are many different types of citrus from those that suit experienced growers to those that are almost fool-proof for a new gardener. Dwarf varieties also mean that citrus can now thrive in a smaller garden or a pot.

When planting citrus in the garden:

- Choose a spot that gets a good amount of sunshine.
- If you don't know the PH of your soil, test and if required adjust to make it PH neutral.
- Add a capful of GOGO Juice to a bucket of water and soak the entire root-ball for a few minutes to prevent transplant stress.
- Dig a hole twice as wide and deep as the pot your citrus is in.
- Add a handful of Seamungus in the bottom of the hole which will help improve with moisture retention and add diverse nutrition and organic matter to the soil.
- Position the plant in the hole, making sure it's straight and if grafted, the join sits well above the top of the soil.
- Mix Seamungus or Rooster Booster through the existing soil and backfill.



## R&D Partner / An Update From the Adelaide Botanic Garden

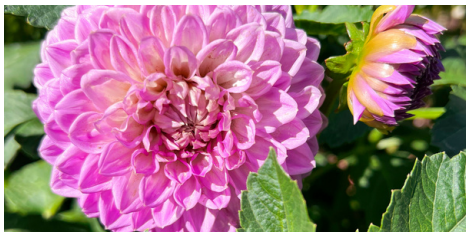


**Dahlias are such a popular flower and to see them in their stunning glory, the Adelaide Botanic Gardens is the place to be. Andy Hart, Senior Horticultural Curator, and Dr. Uwe Stroehler have been working on the dahlia display for the last 6 months and conducting extensive R&D in this area.**

A green manure crop was added to the soil; grown and then dug back through the soil, along with Seamungus. POPUL8 has been added to half the dahlias with the other half not receiving POPUL8. Whoflungdung was also applied to the entire garden.

Since the initial planting, there has been two more applications of POPUL8 and a final application is planned for March. Andy tells us, "the dahlias have all grown beautifully and flowered really well, however, those with the regular applications of POPUL8 have shown a much improved resistance to mildew.

The events season is huge in Adelaide and Clifford Sawtell – Site Horticultural Manager works particularly hard to keep the parks and gardens surrounding Adelaide Botanic Garden, looking at their best; at all times.

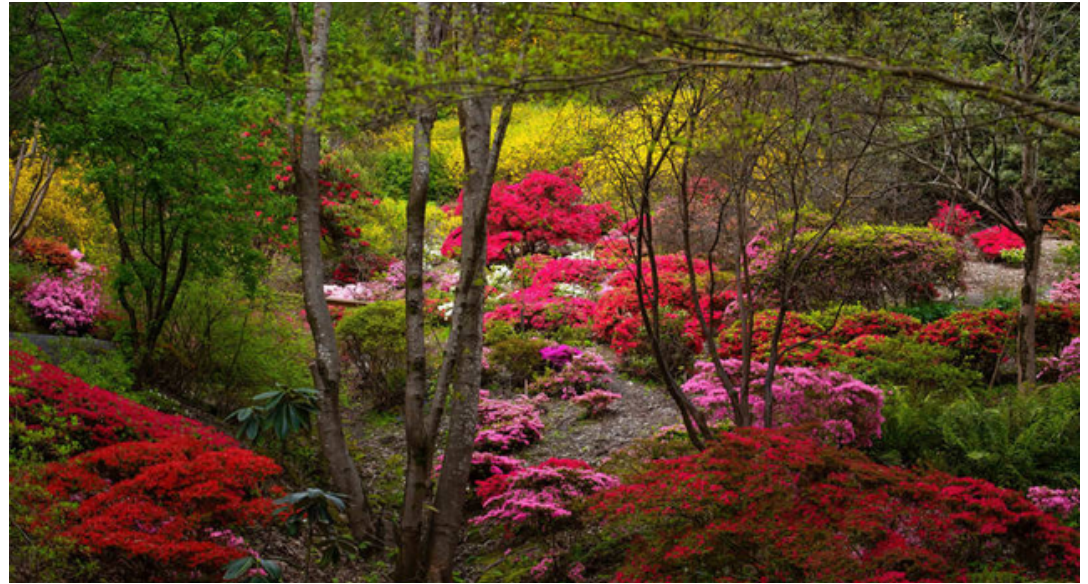


The lush expanses of lawns are fed prior to summer with Sudden Impact for Lawns. This gives the lawns the complete feed they need to withstand a long, hot and busy summer. A strong root system combined with healthy deep green foliage assists the millions of plants - which is what actually comprise a lawn - to cope much better with heat & traffic. With the summer events season coming to a conclusion, Clifford and his team will be starting on renovation work across the site. A decompaction programme will be in place as well as reparation of any areas which need it; this also includes inspection of irrigation systems. During the reparation work, Seamungus Green is applied to stimulate any new turf laid, ensuring the best possible start.

Another interesting facet of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens is their Exotic Fruit Tree Orchard which is adjacent to the Little Sprouts Garden. This display comprises a number of rare and unusual fruit trees the produce of which will be used as part of the Little Sprouts Garden Programme and fertilised with Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus, along with GOGO Juice. The release of Human Beans – our new coffee and poultry manure fertiliser is imminent and will be applied in the Little Sprouts Garden.

## R&D Partner / An Update From the Adelaide Botanic Garden

Over at Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens, Mark Oborn – Horticultural Site Manager & Dr. Uwe Stroehrer have been conducting extensive R&D on camellias & rhododendrons. With the extremely wet 2022 spring which many parts of Australia experienced, came a couple of horticultural problems. Mark's camellia section became waterlogged and chlorotic, which means the plants have been unable to produce sufficient chlorophyll, resulting in yellowing leaves. In the rhododendron gully, some of these plants are also not performing to their optimum. Dr Uwe has been collecting soil samples & testing for bacterial and fungal numbers as well as pathogens. Dr Uwe may have found the culprit as testing has determined the likely presence of a fungal pathogen. This is such a detailed story that we will be publishing a detailed story in it's own right. POPUL8 will be applied along with Whoflungdung with a trial and control areas.



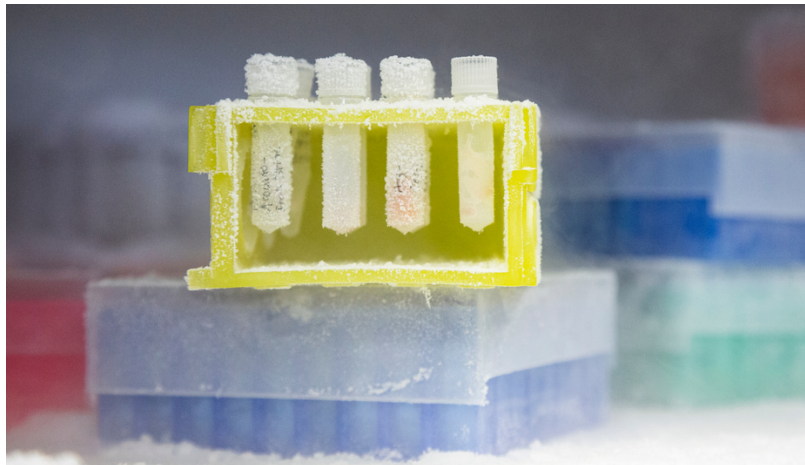
To the south east of Adelaide sits the Wittunga Botanic Garden which is dedicated to water wise plants. Extensive storms late last year damaged Wittunga – in a quite devastating manner. The southern collection will likely need complete replacement. The horticultural team plan on utilising POPUL8 and Bush Tucker to significantly assist the establishment of new & additional native garden plant collections and displays.



In the Western Australian heathlands collection, a higher than usual number of ornamental Proteaceae have rapidly died. While this was of some concern, the hort team weren't overly worried as they have been experimenting in this area with many different species and were expecting some loses of species that weren't compatible with the local conditions. To ensure that further loses aren't suffered, Uwe is also testing soil samples and is investigating whether any soil pathogens are present which might be culpable for the demise of some Proteaceae plants. If soil pathogens are found to be present, POPUL8 will be a key part of the strategy to protect further loses.



## R&D / Preparation of Microbes for Genome Sequencing



**Our extensive collection of microbes has led to the development of our most advanced biological products, but to ensure these microbes are in fact beneficial to the garden, our R&D team send them to the Australian Centre for Ecogenomics at the University of Queensland.**

By obtaining a complete genome sequence for these organisms, we can take a deeper look into the genetic makeup and identify genes that have beneficial functions that we can use in our products, such as the ability to produce plant hormones or liberate nutrients. It also ensures that the microbes that we use aren't pathogenic or microbes that impact plant safety.

It also allows us to identify the exact species of bacteria and fungi that we have, which opens doors for exportation of our biological products to international markets.



The process to prepare the microbes for transportation to Queensland is fascinating where very small quantities of individual microbes are placed into vials and put into a centrifuge. This piece of equipment uses centrifugal force to separate various components of a liquid.

"Think of it like a washing machine - when it spins, the clothes are flung to the sides. The same is happening in the centrifuge just in the other direction. The bacteria are spun to separate the cells to obtain a concentrated solution of microbes," says Dr Uwe.

The concentrated solution of microbes is then frozen with cryo-protectant and then freeze dried into a form that can be sent off for DNA identification.

The genome sequencing process is similar to the sequencing of human genomes, the difference being that our genomes compared to bacteria or fungi are much more complex.

The DNA is extracted from the microbe culture and chopped into small fragments – much like cutting a book into individual pages, allowing us to read one page at a time – and are placed in a machine to record the sequence. These 'pages' are then reassembled into a whole book (or in our case, a genome) that contains all of the genetic information for these organisms.

The process will take approximately eight to ten weeks to complete, but once completed holds numerous potential benefits for both home gardeners and commercial growers.



# School Holidays / Eggsellent Seedlings!

**Eggsellent Seedlings** are the perfect activity to encourage your children and grandchildren to get involved in the garden this autumn. This activity is ridiculously easy and the perfect way to teach children how to plant, care for and grow their own little seedlings. The instructions are as follows:

- 1. Collect some old egg shells** to use for this activity and simply give them a good wash out first. It is more than ok to use uneven eggshells, just make sure you have at least half the shell intact.
- 2. Arrange your eggshells** in a paper egg carton.
- 3. Carefully fill the eggshell with potting mix** and a couple of pellets of Gyganic, add your chosen seeds and water in. Eggshells have no drainage holes, so be careful not to over water the seeds.
- 4. Fill a spray bottle** with water, a gentle misting of water each day will be more than enough.
- 5. Position your eggshells** back into the egg carton, place in a warm spot and watch them grow!

Once your seedlings are established, gently crack the eggshells with your fingers and plant into your garden. The eggshells will decompose and add extra nutrients to the soil and your seedling. And an added bonus, snails hate eggshells!



# School Holidays / Recycled Flower & Herb Planters!



We all know that autumn is a fantastic time for planting no matter where you are in Australia, and with school holidays just around the corner, now is a great time to encourage the kids or grandkids to venture into the garden with some fun activities. Try these recycled planters for instance, where the possibilities are endless!

Almost any item around your house can be utilised as a planter so long as holes can be added for drainage. Get creative with some old baskets or bottles, or perhaps an old pair of gumboots. For a larger planter, you may want to consider using an old wheelbarrow, which can be painted and decorated to make an interesting garden feature.

Your local garden centre will now have a great variety of flowers and herbs to choose from. Get the kids involved to choose their favourite flowers, or make a theme with their favourite colour. Better yet, start by growing some 'Eggsellent Seedlings', and then transfer these to the planters when they're ready!

Once you have chosen your planters, be sure to add drainage holes with a drill or hammer and nail (an adult will be needed for this part!).

Prepare the potting mix/soil with a handful of Human Beans before planting. If your planters are small, we recommend doing this in a separate container first and then scoop the mix into the planters. Add your plants to the soil and water in well with GOGO Juice. Return to the planters every 8 weeks to see their progress and fertilise with Human Beans.



## Application Rates

Human Beans is perfect for your year round vegetable, fruit and flower fertilising!

**Vegetable Patch:** Before planting, prepare the bed with 100g per square metre. Once plants have established, apply 50g per square metre every 6 weeks during the growing period, or as required.

**Fruit Trees:** At planting, apply 100g to the base of the hole and cover with 1-5cm soil. For established plants under 2 years old, apply 100g in each season, and 200g for trees older than 2 years.

**General Garden:** Human Beans can be used throughout your entire garden and is safe to use on natives and bare-rooted roses. Prepare beds with 100g per square metre and apply 100g per square metre in each season once established.



# Rare Fruit Arboretum / Australia's Most Extensive Fig Collection



The fig tree collection in the Rare Fruit Arboretum is the most extensive collection in Australia, and is currently looking very healthy with trees producing an abundance of fruit that will continue to ripen over the next month.

The figs in Arboretum 1 are currently netted, to stop birds eating the fruit before they can be formally identified by members of the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia.

One of the varieties in the Rare Fruit Arboretum is the Preston Prolific (*Ficus carica*) which is a modern fig variety sold since the 1960's in Australia.

Preston Prolific is a fast growing, self-fertile deciduous tree which grows up to five metres tall, and is thought to be a seedling of Black Genoa, originating in Victoria. As the name suggests, the Preston Prolific produces an abundance of fruit.

The tree produces large leaves and fruits that change to a purple-brown colour when fully ripe with a distinctive sweet flavour. The fruit is often used in jams, but are just as enjoyable when eaten fresh.

Fig trees are not as common as they used to be, with some children growing up having never eaten or seen a fig in their lifetime. By planting these fruits in the Rare Fruit Arboretum we will be able to ensure their preservation for generations to come.



## Application Rates

Fig trees thrive with a regular application of GOGO Juice, and will more likely produce more fruit and better foliage.

For established trees, apply 100g after signs of new season growth and every 8-10 weeks thereafter throughout the growing period.

Apply evenly to pre-soaked soil around the dripline of the plant, avoiding contact with the base of the tree and foliage.

Water in well.





## Do you ever wonder what products the staff at Neutrog choose? Which ones we use in our own gardens?

This month we introduce you our Customer Relationship Manager for SA and NSW, Paul Dipuglia, and some results he has experienced after using Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPUL8.

There are a few Neutrog staff who can resist sharing photos of their lawn. But, Paul, (who just took this one) is hard to beat with a lawn that beggars belief, particularly today when it has just freshened up following a shower of rain.

Autumn lawns can be incredibly satisfying as they still maintain that lush green growth but require less watering now the hot weather has passed.

To keep your lawn green for as long as possible, Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPUL8 will give you that brilliant green result. The combination of high levels of nitrogen, along with trace elements such as iron and magnesium support the plant to produce chlorophyll the component that makes lawn green and the beneficial microbes in POPUL8 help with resilience against pests and diseases.

But Paul also gave us a sneaky lawn tip the other day, "if I have people coming over on the weekend and I want my lawn to really green up quickly, I will use Strike Back for Orchids Advanced Biological Formula. The nitrogen in SBFO, in a liquid form, gives a fantastic, almost immediate result. But for long term impact, Sudden Impact with the POPUL8 is impossible to beat."



## Application Rates

**Established lawns** – Apply at 50gm per square metre and water in well. Apply every 6-8 weeks throughout spring, summer and autumn. Apply Neutrog Blade Runner or Seamungus in winter.

**New lawns** – Apply 100gm per square metre. If preparing soil prior to seeding or laying of new turf, apply Rapid Raiser or Seamungus.

**Non-flowering plants** – Apply 50gm per square metre and water in well. Apply every 6-8 weeks throughout spring, summer and autumn. Apply Neutrog Blade Runner or Seamungus in winter.

# Next Month / Keep In Touch Until May!



In addition to our newsletter there are plenty of ways to keep in touch with us or to find out more. Below you will find link buttons to our Neutrog TV page (which is hosted by Youtube) where you can find a range of video's as well as copies of Dr Uwe's weekly chats with Graham Ross.

On Facebook we regularly post gardening tips, stories from gardeners who use Neutrog products to stunning effect. We also feature staff news and videos from around the site. If you visit the page, make sure you click Like and Follow to ensure you keep seeing all the updates.

**See you in May!**  
**The Neutrog Team**

## Our Partners

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 (click on a logo to head to their website):



and The Orchid Club of South Australia.

*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?*

