



The Pooh Bah News

Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

Despite its late onset for some areas of Australia, summer has now been and gone with cooler mornings and evenings sweeping in to give us a taste of the autumn season to come. While the soil is still warm, it's a great time to add a 'blanket' of Whoflungdung to help suppress persistent weeds, retain water and regulate temperature. You can find out more about gardening tasks for March in our Planting and Fertilising Guide.

This month we share with you some exciting news about one of our most anticipated products, **Human Beans™**. Its release is just around the corner now, and we are excited to share more of the journey that has been taken to turn spent coffee grounds into a biologically activated fertiliser for your garden!

We also feature the blooming dahlias at the Adelaide Botanic Garden, Graham Hein's spectacular collection of orchids, POPUL8 Trials at Metro Organics in South Africa, and we encourage you to visit the open garden at Paul & Maureen's 'Rosemont' in Victoria.

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

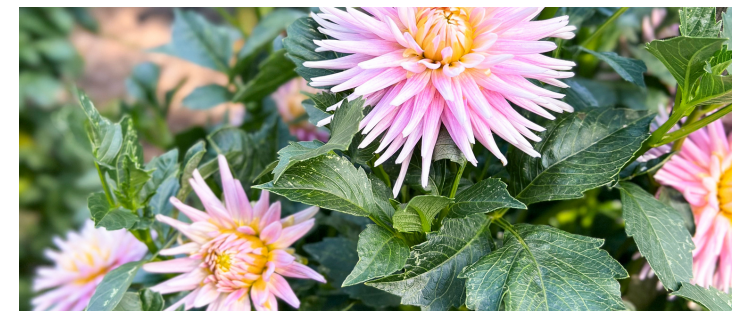
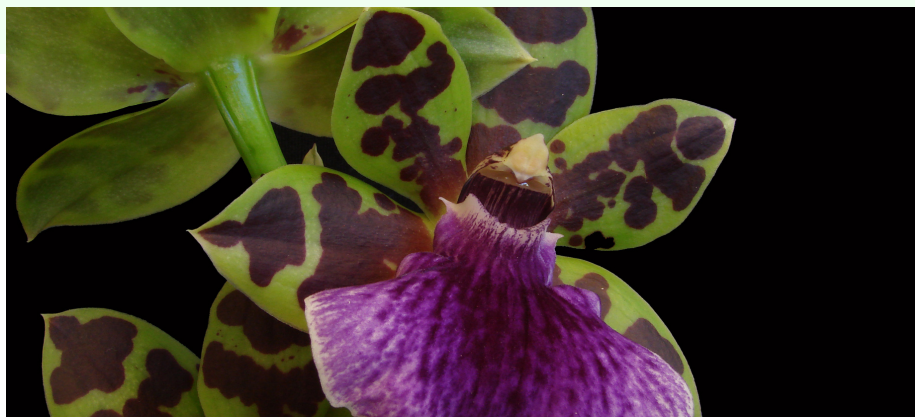


Photo of the Month / Zygoneria Kuitpo 'Brooklyn Park'



Neutrog has a long-standing relationship with orchid societies across Australia including the Orchid Club of South Australia and after reading the latest South Australian Orchid Bulletin, we were delighted to see that the winning plants of the first, second and third divisions of the Registrars Choice were all fertilised using Strike Back for Orchids.

The chosen plant for the first division was Zygoneria (Zga.) Kuitpo 'Brooklyn Park' belonging to Graham Hein, Honorary Treasurer of the Orchid Club of South Australia, who kindly allowed us to share them with you.

The flowers have a distinctive purple labellum (the modified median petal) with white edging, surrounded by segments of pale green with dark maroon/brown markings.

This Zga. Kuitpo 'Brooklyn Park' was grown in a heavily shaded area under normal growing conditions for Zygoneria, and potted in a medium of pine bark, perlite, diatomite, and small marble chips. The plant is watered every second or third day during very hot conditions, and once a fortnight in winter.

Graham feeds them with Strike Back for Orchids Advanced Biological Liquid when watering the plants, along with GOGO Juice and Seamungus.

The Zga. Kuitpo 'Brooklyn Park' is just one variety in Graham's collection of orchids, with a few others being Zga Memoria Peter Nelson x Adelaide Meadows, as well as Neopabstopetalum varieties such as Adelaide 'Lipsett' and Beverley Lou 'Top Gun'.

Strike Back for Orchids is available in both pellet and advanced biological liquid form, and is ideal for orchids and all other potted flowering and fruiting plants.

Application Rates

Advanced Biological Liquid: Shake well before use. Dilute 40mL (1 capful) of Strike Back for Orchids in 6-8 litres of water. Apply once a fortnight. Dilute at a weaker or stronger rate as required. Use diluted product within 1 week of dilution.

Pellets: Apply 20 grams (2 teaspoons) per 8-inch pot per month, with relative increases/ decreases dependent upon pot size. Water in well. Strike Back for Orchids is recommended and endorsed by orchid clubs and cymbidium orchid clubs Australia wide.



A New Appointment to Neutrog's Biological Advisory Board



Associate Professor Renato Morona has over 40 years of research experience (PhD (Adel) 1982) in studying bacterial surfaces.

His work has principally been on bacterial pathogens and their virulence factors, including cell surface proteins and polysaccharides. He has used bacterial genetics, recombinant DNA technology, and protein analysis to discover new genes and their functions in key biological processes used by bacteria to cause disease.

A research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Biology (Germany), Renato then returned to the University of Adelaide in 1985 where he initially conducted vaccine research with Enterovax Ltd.

During that time with the University of Adelaide, Renato held a variety of appointments (Head of the Discipline of Microbiology and Immunology, Associate Dean Research (Faculty of Science), Head of the University of Adelaide Institutional Biosafety Committee, Member of NHMRC grant review panels, Expert Witness on several patent cases). He has graduated over twenty PhD students and was course co-ordinator for Infection and Immunity A (level III undergraduate) and Honours in Molecular and Cellular Biology. His research was funded by multiple NHMRC grants (including two Program Grants) and ARC grants (over \$20M in career funding) and he has published 140 primary research articles and reviews.

Renato's recent work has focussed on proteins and mechanisms of complex polysaccharide biosynthesis, and he published eight research articles in 2022. Renato is well known in Australia for his contributions to bacteriology, and in 2022 he received a Distinguished Service Award from the Australian Society for Microbiology.

About Neutrog's Biological Advisory Board

Neutrog's Biological Advisory Board has been developed to provide Neutrog's R&D Management team with access to a vast array of world-wide experience in biological research, soils and plants and in product development. It has been designed so that the individual Biological Advisory Board Members not only pass on their experience but are also provided the opportunity of challenging and shaping the thinking of Neutrog's R&D Team.

Once established, the four-five Member Board will only rarely meet as a collective — rather, each of its individual Members will meet with Neutrog's R&D Management Team on a quarterly basis.



A Visit from Rowland Flat Agricultural Bureau Members

The world of biological fertilisers is a fascinating one, and it always puts a smile on our faces to be able to share that world with those who are interested to learn. Last month we had the pleasure of hosting 20 members of the Rowland Flat Agricultural Bureau for a tour of our factory and laboratory.

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.

If you are part of a group that are interested in touring Neutrog, please get in touch at info@neutrog.com.au

Site News / What's happening at Neutrog?

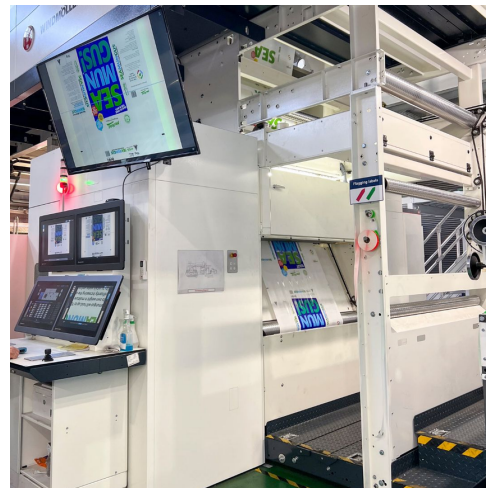
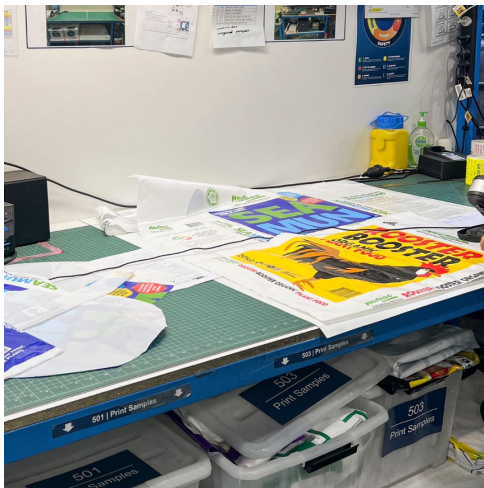


Look Out for Our New Packaging!

After 35 years of manufacturing and selling premium biological fertilisers to home gardeners and commercial growers, the time has come for some of our packaging to receive a much needed update, which you will soon see as they begin to enter garden centres and independent retailers across Australia.

Seamungus and Rooster Booster are the first to have a refreshed design, which you can see being printed in the photos below.

These updates also follow the development of the NEW Human Beans and Rooster Booster in 3KG 100% paper bags, which will also be on shelves at your local retailers very soon.



Site Upgrades Continue

Following on from our update last month about our upgraded production facilities within our main production area, the exterior has now also been refreshed with a fresh coat of paint.

This forms part of a much larger project to improve the functionality and appearance of the Neutrog factory. The buildings are now uniform, as this next step follows the painting from last month around the production sheds and silos.

The main production shed has also been enclosed, housing the new packaging lines and increasing the overall size of the production area.

Product of the Month / Human Beans — Grounds for Good



Australians sure love their coffee, and according to the Coffee 4 Planet Ark report, collectively we consume 6.2 billion cups of the caffeinated beverage every year. The by-product of this daily ritual however has resulted in approximately 117 million kilograms of spent coffee grounds, most of which ends up in landfill.

Until now, two key factors have stood in the way of reducing this growing waste stream. The first was how to economically collect the coffee waste and the second, was how to manufacture that waste into a commercially viable product.

At Neutrog, we recognised the opportunity of coffee waste as an organic input in fertiliser and knew that our specific method of composting would activate the nutrients in the coffee, making them readily available to plants.



Foodbank, a national charity organisation that visit a range of organisations daily to collect food donations, partnered with Neutrog in an operational trial to collect coffee waste as part of their existing business model, which has proven to be a viable collection method.

This innovative South Australian based trial saw coffee waste collected from Bunnings café's, OTR stores, Bedford Industries and organisations all keen to demonstrate their commitment to improving their waste footprint.

The result of this partnership between Neutrog and Foodbank has now led to the launch of the world's first coffee fertiliser, Human Beans™.

Human Beans is designed as an organic, versatile easy-to-use fertiliser, that feeds plants and improves soil health through a combination of nutritionally dense ingredients further enhanced with a biologically diverse formula called POPUL8™.



The sustainable focus of Human Beans, needed to also flow through to the packaging, and working with Detpak has enabled Neutrog to create the first ever fertiliser product, packaged in paper. This means that the empty bag can be added directly into a compost bin or kerbside recycling.



Look out for Human Beans in Bunnings stores Australia wide!

Autumn / Fill Your Garden with Colour!



As we pass the remaining heat of summer and enjoy those cooler mornings and evenings, your garden will begin to come alive with autumn colour.

Early varieties of azalea will soon begin to flower, along with crepe myrtle, frangipani, fuchsia, chrysanthemum, and day lily just to name a few. Also, we can't forget that autumn flush of roses!

There are also plenty of plants to choose from when looking to add some colour to your garden this season, including alyssum, calendula, marigold, snapdragons violets, and bulb varieties like daffodils, ranunculus, and tulips. Acid-loving plants are also a great addition including camellias, rhododendrons, and azaleas.

Fun fact – St Patrick's Day is the best time to plant sweet peas!

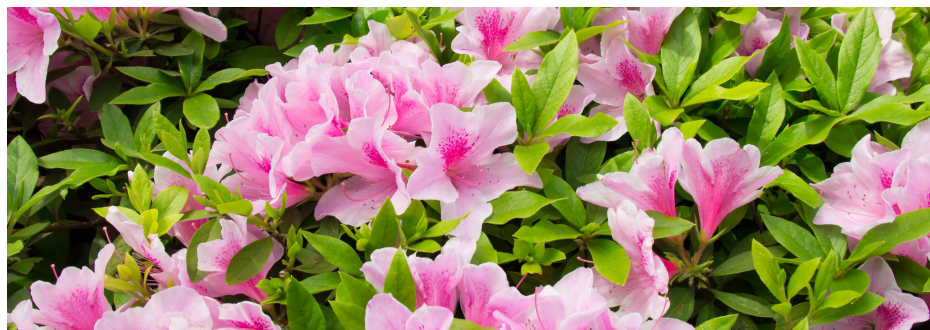


Preparing your soil well is paramount to encouraging strong and healthy plants, and this can be done using our planting trifecta of Seamungus, GOGO Juice and Whoflungdung.

Before planting, incorporate Seamungus into the soil and water in well with GOGO Juice. Once your planting is complete, add another handful of Seamungus and then mulch with Whoflungdung.

Once established, keep your plants nourished to encourage plenty of strong and healthy blooms using a high-quality biological fertiliser every 6-8 weeks. The choice of fertiliser will depend on what you have planted, but the general rule of thumb is Kahoona for acid loving plants, Strike Back for Orchids for all orchids and potted flowering plants, and then Sudden Impact for Roses for all other flowering plants. Feed natives with Bush Tucker.

Prune flowering plants and dead head your roses throughout autumn to extend their flowering period.



R&D Partner / Dahlias Flower at the Adelaide Botanic Garden



Within the beautiful botanic gardens in the heart of Adelaide is a site dedicated to dahlias. Every year throughout summer and autumn the garden puts on a floriferous display of colour with help from the Dahlia Society of South Australia.

Healthy soil is key to achieving such a display of strong blooms with dahlias being susceptible to mosaic viral diseases that are transmitted between sap sucking insects resulting in yellowing, spotting and deformation of the leaves. In the past this has been a known issue in the dahlia beds at the Adelaide Botanic Garden.

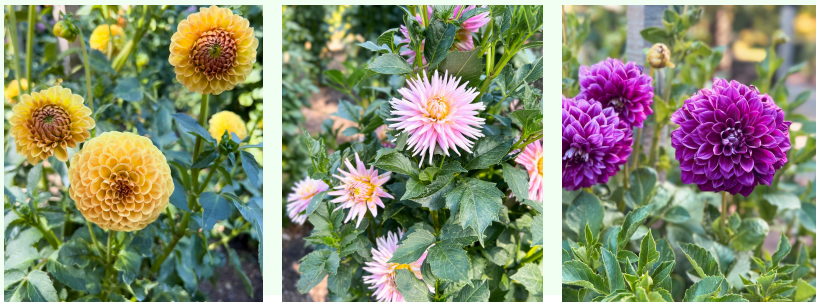
An R&D trial has been underway since mid-2022 to combat this issue involving Whoflungdung to increase the microbial activity in the soil, strengthen the plants and make them more resistant to the effects of a mosaic viral disease.

Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium senior horticultural curator, Andy Hart, and senior gardener, Stephen Higgins, began the trial by preparing the dahlia bed with an application of Whoflungdung forked into the soil at a rate of 20 litres per square metre. A week later, the Whoflungdung was lightly tilled to incorporate it into the soil to form a seed bed ready to sow mustard seed as a cover crop in early August to reduce nematode numbers in the soil.



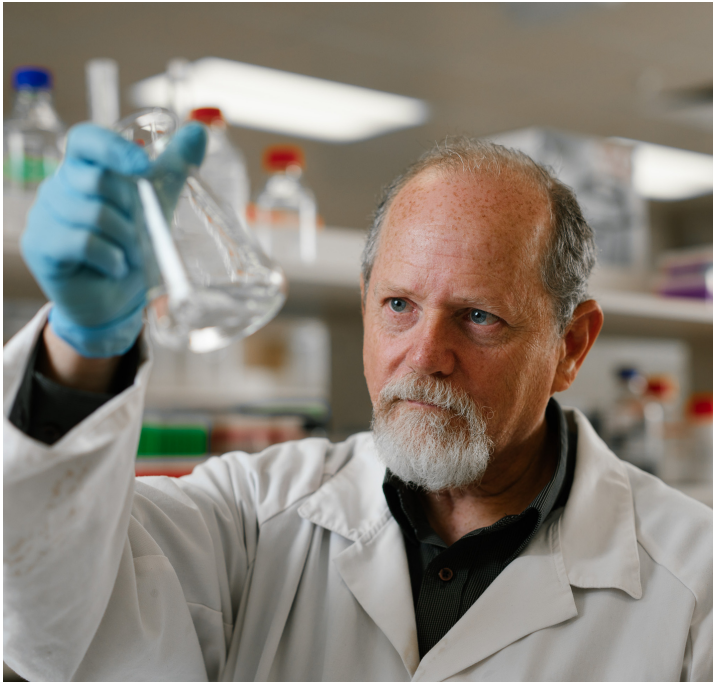
The green crop was rotary hoed to incorporate it into the soil with some gypsum and Seamungus, with tubers then planted in late October with help from members of the Dahlia Society of South Australia.

The hard work of all involved has paid off in a beautiful way with colourful blooms pulling in eager crowds. Most notably, Dr Uwe has noted that the dahlias are in perfect condition with no signs of distress from mosaic viral diseases.



This is an excellent example of how a beautiful garden starts with the soil, and by first completing the groundwork, gardeners can overcome the challenges of gardening in a tricky area.





The powerful combination of Sudden Impact for Lawns and POPUL8 has proven to be a perfect pair, with home gardens and commercial turf across Australia showing just what a dose of good bacteria and fungi can do.

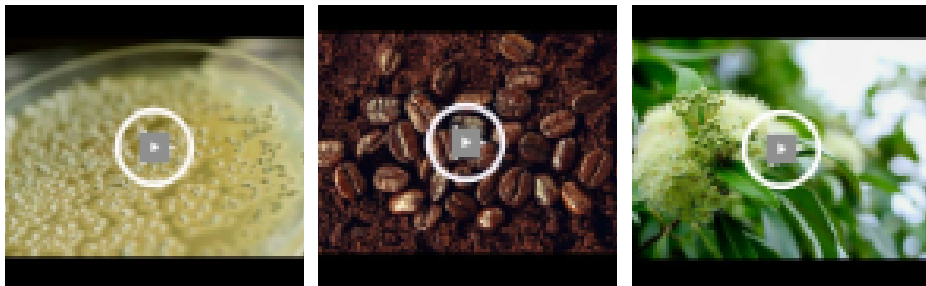
Sudden Impact for Lawns been a valuable part of Neutrog's range of biological fertilisers, providing all types of turf the necessary nutrients they need to thrive... so why add POPUL8?

Dr Uwe says, "The microbes in POPUL8 play a number of roles including accelerating nutrient cycling, and they can reduce fungal diseases in lawn often caused by things like poor drainage or high humidity. There are also microbes present that produce plant growth hormones such as auxins, and liberate nutrients such as potassium. It helps your lawn develop a much better root system which is critical for resilience against stressors such as heat, frost and traffic."

Sudden Impact for Lawns now comes coated with POPUL8, giving home gardeners the best of both worlds in a dual-purpose product designed to both stimulate growth and simultaneously fight pathogenic disease on all types of lawns, hedges and trees.

Learn more about the benefit of adding POPUL8 to your lawn care program with Dr Uwe and Graham Ross in the segment below:

You can listen to Dr Uwe Stroehler every Saturday on Radio 2GB's 'The Garden Clinic' with Graham Ross for all things soil science and the research that is happening in the Neutrog laboratory.



Kilmore Garden



After long careers as cattle farmer and Qantas Captain, Coleen and Douglas moved from their farm in rural Victoria into town where they have established a magnificent garden.

We caught up with Coleen and Douglass recently for a wander through the garden, followed by a delicious lunch on the patio. They told us that their farm and garden was their absolute delight, but after much consideration, that they wanted to build a new garden from scratch.

The only plantings when they moved to their home were conifers (Lleylandi) planted as a boundary. They provided a necessary wind break to allow the garden to be established but have since been removed. Professional landscape designer 'Robert Boyle Landscape Design' was engaged to plan and plant the new garden. This happened 8 years ago, with everything planted in August 2015.

Coleen and Douglas were introduced to Neutrog products through Robert through his use of Rapid Raiser for the garden and Rocket Fuel for the vegetable garden. "These are still the basis of our fertiliser program, but we have added Seamungus, Cock'n'Bull, have just begun using Gyganic on the vegetables and fruit trees.

These photos show how much can be achieved with a great design, a lot of hard work, careful plant selection, soil preparation and fertilising. All ongoing work since then has been managed by Coleen who is an absolute dynamo.



Up until 2022, Douglas was still flying, but upon retirement has set up the most fabulous systems for watering that you'd be likely to see in a domestic garden. Douglas says, "The watering system design includes the ability to run liquid fertiliser through it such as GOGO Juice and POPUL8 to water 1000 square metres of lawn and similar sized garden. The water is delivered through 6km of dripper line." As part of this, two enormous tanks (capable of holding 22,500 litres each!) were also installed, with water supplied by the bore. He commented that he was a little concerned whether there'd be enough to do upon retirement, and then laughed saying that he is constantly flat out with things to do around the garden.

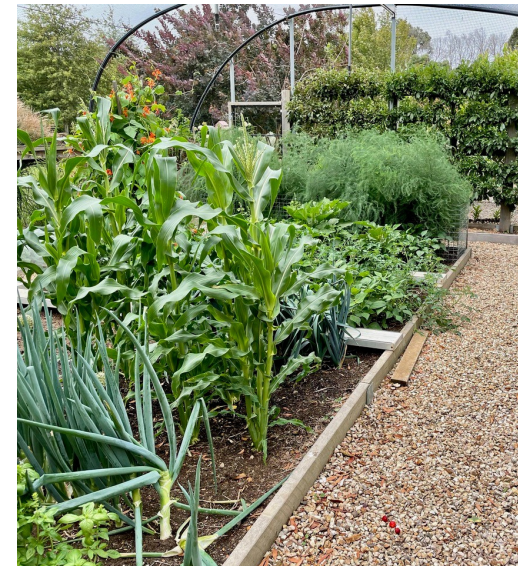
Kilmore Garden



The view from the patio encompasses much of the garden, but either side of that view are further garden beds and plantings. You are lured from spot to spot and constantly find more beautiful plantings to admire. The vegetable, herb and fruit garden is fully enclosed to keep out the marauders and a great range is grown here. Coleen is a fabulous cook too – which we can attest to. The wisteria covered pergola is stunning. When we visited it was covered in lush green foliage with hundreds of green seed pods dangling down – a statement within itself. There's lots of great tough plants, including roses, pittosporums, nandinas, grasses, cotinus and agapanthus. Silver birches and maples abound, providing stunning autumnal colour.

Douglas says, "There is a bench seat at the far end of the garden centred in line with the arbour. To sit there with Coleen and being with nature is very relaxing. From there, we think of new things and projects to construct." Coleen loves that there is interest in the garden all year round, with either foliage, flowers, or fragrance.

"I find it hard to pick my favourite part of the garden. I love being able to pick flowers for the house, but I have to say that growing your own vegetables is just ridiculously satisfying," she says.



Neutrog South Africa / POPUL8 Trials with Metro Organics



Established by Graham Clack, Metro Organics is an urban farm based in the Cape Town suburb of Noordhoek. They provide a wide selection of vegetables across the South Peninsula of Cape Town to restaurants and bespoke grocers, while also selling in their own stores in Noordhoek and Diep River.

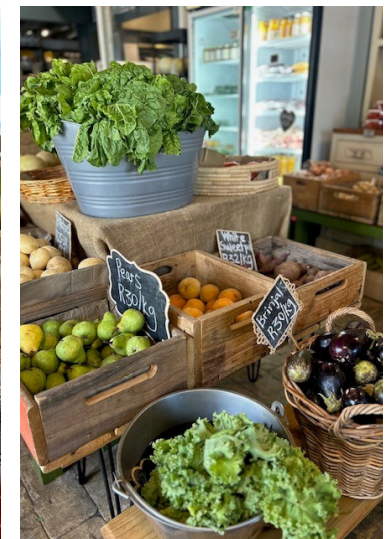
On their two hectare property they grow varieties of lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, tomato, pepper, onions, potato, chilli and spinach to name a few.

Little fertiliser is used over the property, as Graham turns green waste into compost which is then mixed with cow manure (kraal) and pelletised chicken manure on top of the substrate before planting. The soil is very sandy and requires organic material to bulk it up.

Graham uses his own bore holes for water supply which tap into the Cape Aquifer and, despite being less than 1km from the sea, the water is of excellent quality.

Charles Bertram, Neutrog South Africa Director, says, "We are currently trialling POPUL8 (known as WATERM8 in South Africa) on Metro Organics lettuce crops where one area has pelletised chicken manure applied and the second with compost, and both have received applications of POPUL8. So far, the first plot has shown some very promising results, with the plants already showing a higher survival rate compared to the control."

The lettuce cycle lasts 3-4 weeks, and soon we will have the final results to share with you.



Living Legends / Meeting Makybe Diva



Whether you are a major fan or simply a spectator, meeting a well-known name naturally makes us all a little bit star struck, which is exactly how Neutog's Helen Lovel felt last month after meeting Australia's one and only, Makybe Diva!

Makybe Diva is an award winning, champion Australian Thoroughbred racehorse and a true Australian gem. She is the only mare to win the Melbourne Cup, and the only horse to win three of them (2003, 2004 and 2005). She was also the highest stakes-earner in Australian history, winning more than \$14 million.

The name 'Makybe Diva' is unusual, but it is actually composed of the first two letters of the owners' employees: Maureen, Kylie, Belinda, Diane, and Vanessa.

Her days of trampling the lawn at Flemington Racecourse however are behind her, now living comfortably in retirement.

Helen paid her a visit after she arrived at Living Legends in the middle of February, where she stayed for five days. During the visit, Makybe Diva put on a show, much like her namesake rose.



A stunning shade of pale pink with a blush of apricot in the centre, the plant is a Hybrid Tea that grows up to 1.2m tall, with long, firm stems and open to reveal large elegant blooms. Both the horse, her name and her namesake rose suggest a celebration of female beauty, strength, stamina and success.

They are a bare rooted rose, so before planting they need to be soaked in GOGO Juice for at least an hour to overcome transplant shock and be sure to add Seamungus to the bottom of the planting hole before covering with a mound of soil to splay the roots over. Once the rose begins to flower, you can begin fertilising with Sudden Impact for Roses.

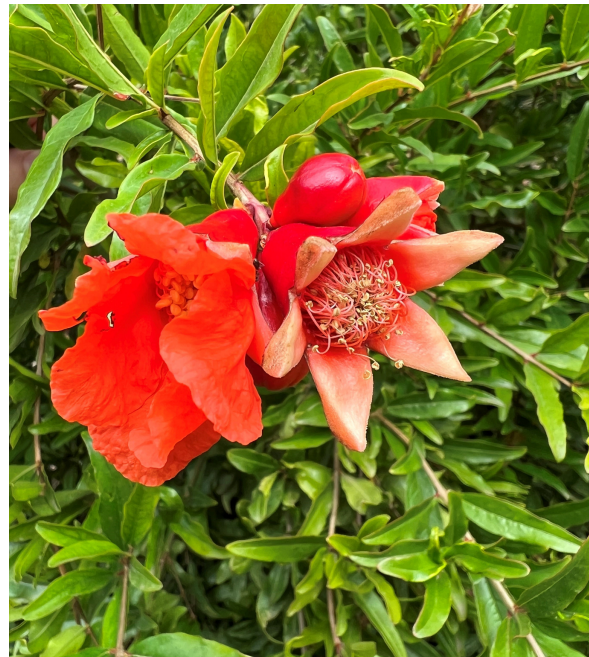
Application Rates

Roses — Apply 100g per bush to established rose plants. For potted roses, use 15g per 150mm pot size, increasing by 5g per 25mm pot size increase.

General Garden — Use 100g per square metre every 8-10 weeks throughout the growing season to presoaked soil around the dripline of the plant and water in well. Avoid contact with foliage and flowers.



Rare Fruit Arboretum / Pomegranates!



Pomegranates are a unique and stunning fruit that pack a flavourful punch in both savoury and sweet dishes. There are some great varieties in the Rare Fruit Arboretum including Kazake, Velez, Mareo and Verdale White, and all are showing some great signs of plenty of fruit to come over the next month or so.

The pomegranate is a shrub or small tree that can grow to 6 to 10 metres, but more typically 3 to 5 metres in height. In our region it is generally deciduous, but some varieties will recover their leaves after a very short break.

The new leaves are bronze coloured turning a deep glossy green with maturity. The trunk is covered by a red-brown bark which becomes grey with age, and branches are stiff and angular, and often thorny, although this varies greatly by variety.

Pomegranates showcase blooms of orange/red flowers from late spring through summer, with mature fruit from March to May.

When adding a pomegranate tree to your garden, the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia recommend not adding any fertiliser to the base of the hole, and instead apply a pelleted fertiliser such as Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus to the surface soil after backfilling.

Mulch with Whoflungdung after planting, making sure to keep a 50-100mm gap between the mulch and the base of the plant. Water in well with GOGO Juice. Keep in mind that plants won't properly bear fruit until three or four years after planting.



Pomegranate trees thrive with a regular feed and will more likely produce more fruit and better foliage when properly nourished.

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.



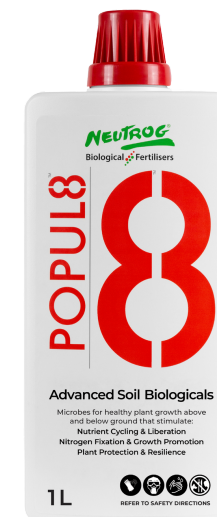
Do you ever wonder what products the staff at Neutrog choose? Which ones we use in our own gardens?

This month we introduce you our Commercial Customer Relationship Manager for Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania, Julie Walker, and some results she has experienced after using Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus, Whoflungdung & POPUL8.

Recently Julie sent in these photos of her Pimply Squash Vines that were sown in late October, noting, "They're SENSATIONAL!"

The seeds were sown into a two metre area of clay above a retaining wall. The ground was prepared by incorporating Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus into the soil, followed by a layer of Whoflungdung watered in with POPUL8. A couple of handfuls of Gyganic have also been added each month.

"These vines would normally be spent by now, but we're still harvesting every week and seeing new growth and flowers every day. They are growing against six metres of north facing galvanised iron and show little to no signs of burning or heat stress, despite the run of hot weather lately."



Application Rates

Dilute one capful (40mL) of POPUL8 per 10 litres of water which will cover up to 8m² 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).

Next Month / Keep In Touch Until April!



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, like Paul and Maureen at Rosemont Garden. 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 April!
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?

