



The Pooh Bah News



Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year for year round health. We know that happy, healthy and well-nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost, so it makes sense to fertilise in winter.

As the soil temperature drops, bacterial and fungal activity decreases but it doesn't stop. Giving a gentle feed now ensures that when spring arrives, your soil's nutrient balance is ready for your plants and will result in vigorous and healthy growth with a longer flowering period.

Seamungus is ideal for a gentle, organically based nutrient dense winter boost, GOGO Juice will add plenty of beneficial bacteria, and a layer of Whoflungdung can help with temperature variance and control erosion from higher rainfall.

In this month's newsletter we will take you through all of our best tips and tricks for preparing and maintaining your garden through winter. We also feature the 2023 People's Choice rose, some incredible Black Kangaroo Paws with Angus Stewart, championship blooms with the Bendigo Goldfields Chrysanthemum Association, and plenty more.

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



Shareholders / Low Volume Market Now Available for Neutrog Shares

It has now been 12 months since Neutrog became an unlisted Public Company and welcomed 798 new shareholders onto its share register.

As Neutrog is an unlisted public company, Neutrog shares are not listed and able to be traded on any mainstream licensed market or exchange, including the ASX.

In order to provide a platform upon which Neutrog shares could be traded, Neutrog applied to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) to establish a Low Volume Market. A Low Volume Market provides Neutrog's shareholders with a platform to trade their Neutrog shares & conversely it provides those who would like to become a Neutrog shareholder the opportunity to purchase Neutrog shares from an existing shareholder.

Neutrog is pleased to announce that it has recently received approval from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) to establish a Low Volume Market.

Any transactions that take place between a buyer and a seller are without any involvement from Neutrog. Settled transactions are processed by Neutrog's share registry Automic Group. There are no fees payable or paid on any transactions. If you are interested in knowing more, please click the link below.

[CLICK HERE / To learn more about the Low Volume Market](#)

Photo of the Month / 2023 People's Choice Award



Every year the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia hosts the Autumn Rose Show and People's Choice Weekend, an event that Neutrog has proudly supported for many years, inviting the Australian public to the garden to make the most of the autumn blooms.

The People's Choice weekend is a public judging event in which rose growers and rose breeders can showcase their best roses. Members of the general public are invited along to cast their votes for their most favoured roses, while also viewing roses that are likely to be released in the coming seasons.

This year, the event attracted over 640 members of the public to the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia, each voting for the roses that caught their eye.

The winner of the People's Choice competition having correctly selected the top 4 most popular roses in the right order was Nathalia from Woodville, receiving a prize supplied by Neutrog, Garden Grove, RIAUS, and the Rose Society of South Australia.

The winning rose numbers were 21, 9, 12, 19 and 8, with the most popular rose being a red hybrid tea bred by Rosen Tantau in Germany and entered into the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia by Knight's Roses. The rose is yet to be named in Australia.

Neutrog congratulates Nathalia on her achievement, and all exhibitors for a stunning show at the People's Choice Awards for 2023.

The Rose Society of South Australia have provided Neutrog with their 'Essentials for Rose Growing Success - Winter Rose Growing Culture Notes for South Australia' to assist you with your winter rose gardening.

They say "We often associate the winter months with cold and wet conditions and a time when we can ignore the garden assuming "nothing much is happening". However for rose enthusiasts, this period should be busy with planting new roses and pruning existing roses."

You can find read the notes on our website by [clicking here](#).



Site News / What's happening at Neutrog?

Welcoming Elders Agronomists at Kanmantoo



A lot of Neutrog products are developed to service commercial grower requirements and from here they are developed into a home garden application. As part of this, we have close relationships with national agricultural distributors including Elders who played a significant role in the development of POPUL8.

During a recent industry conference in SA, we welcomed a group of Elders agronomists to our site. Over the course of a couple of hours they spent time in our laboratory with Dr Uwe where he talked about the impact on product development by isolating, identifying and storing microbes.

For agronomists and their clients, these microbes create an opportunity to manufacture products that use an individual and/or collective species to achieve a desired outcome. This can take the form of a liquid biological formula or even a coating that is applied to a fertiliser pellet.

On the manufacturing side, seeing our process up-close, demonstrates the science behind our production methods, particularly as it relates to achieving reliable uniformity of nutrients in our pellets.

If you are interested in staff training and development, we welcome you to contact us [HERE](#).

Continued Site Improvements at Kanmantoo

Following a number of major improvements to the Neutrog factory in Kanmantoo, we are now seeing to areas surrounding the production facilities to increase the overall production area and improve site drainage and management.

An area behind the main production shed forms the main pathway between the composting pads and manufacturing facility, resulting in scattered material through this area which has built up over time. This layer of dirt has now been completely removed, revealing the limestone base beneath. The flatter foundation will make it significantly easier for site vehicles and buses to pass through, especially during difficult weather conditions.

In addition to this, the roadway approaching the weighbridge used daily by incoming and outgoing trucks has now been bitumized, creating a safer and smoother path for vehicles to manoeuvre.

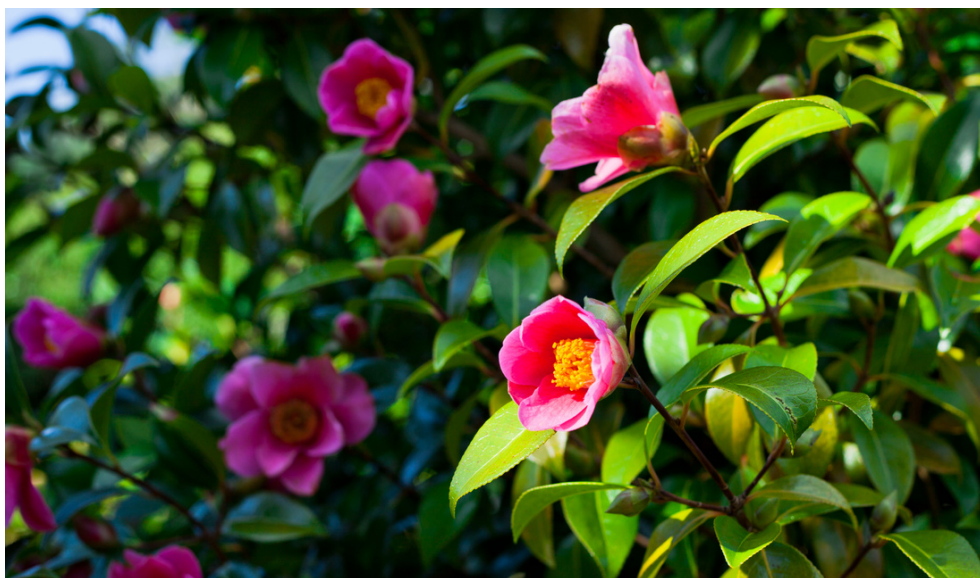


You may have come across this fungi on our social media pages of a mushroom that was found by Dr Uwe and David Yang from our R&D team in the Adelaide Hills. This absolute monster measured a whopping 19cm wide!

Interestingly, people have been eating mushrooms for over 5,300 years, with mushrooms being the fruit of a much larger fungus that lives underground

NOTE: Please don't consume wild mushrooms unless you are experienced in identifying individual species.

Product of the Month / Kahoona

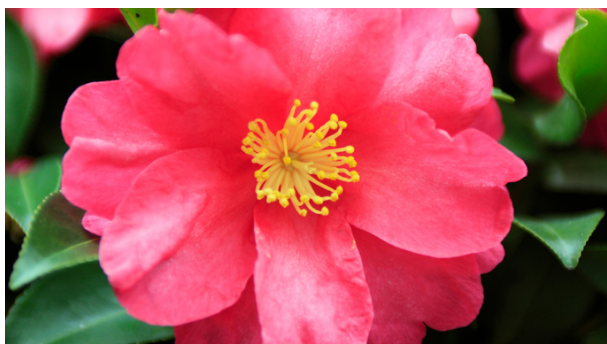


Many areas around Australia are characterised by acidic soil and for the gardener keen to embrace the soil type of their garden, there are a range of plants that love those acidic conditions. To support these plants to thrive, understanding their specific nutrient requirement and the challenges for microbial activity is key.

Dr Uwe Stroeher, Neutrog's R&D Manager, explains that soil pH can vary widely from peat soils with a pH as low as 4, up to some alkaline soils of 10 and above. The pH of a soil at 6 versus at 7 is ten times more acidic, and this acidity difference results in varied nutrient release and availability.

Dr Uwe says, "In alkaline soils for example, potassium, sulphur and other nutrients are highly soluble, whereas iron, zinc and manganese are tied up. Conversely, in acid soils, trace elements such as iron, manganese, boron and zinc are readily available. As such, acid loving plants have adapted to using these nutrients and have a slightly higher requirement for them.

Surprisingly, high levels of phosphate can have a negative effect on acid loving plants and this is because phosphate is generally not as readily available in acidic soil, so plants living in this environment often display a reduced need for this nutrient."

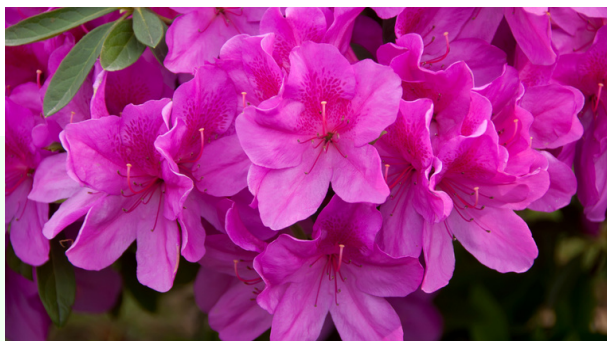


Fertilisers specifically formulated for acid loving plants need to take these factors into account, which is why Neutrog's fertiliser for acid loving plants, Kahoona, has been developed with the right nutrients and lower phosphate.

"Furthermore, soil pH does not only affect nutrient availability but the growth and survival of soil microbes, as such acid soils often have reduced microbial activity.

Very acid environments lead to a shut down or slowing of microbial activity (think of preserving food in acids such a vinegar). In the soil this leads to a reduced ability of these soils to cycle nutrients and to breakdown organic matter. As an example, peat bogs have a lot of carbon tied up which is in essence never broken down and cycled.

This characteristic of acidic soils is something that we took into consideration in the development of the new Advanced Biological Formula GOGO Juice. In GOGO Juice the microbes are cultured at a pH of between 5.8 and 6.5 so slightly acid conditions meaning GOGO Juice contains a range of bacteria and fungi which will survive and reproduce in acidic soil."



Extensive trials by members of the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch) Inc., NSW Camellia Research Society, the Camellia Society of WA and Camellias Illawarra has resulted in endorsement of Kahoona by these groups.

The Camellia Society of Queensland will be joining this endorsement list, giving gardeners the confidence to use and recommend Kahoona.



The Expert's Choice / Black Kangaroo Paws



Kangaroo Paws are available in an impressive range of eye catching colours and are among the most recognised native plants to grow. They are fascinating to native plant enthusiasts across Australia, and a favourite of native plant expert, Angus Stewart, who recently shared a particularly interesting variety with us:

"Kangaroo paws are one of Australia's most iconic wildflowers, with the red and green kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos manglesii*) being perhaps best known, being the floral emblem of Western Australia. There is one other kangaroo paw that has similar show stopping qualities, namely the black kangaroo paw.

Whilst being related to the dozen other species of kangaroo paws in the genus *Anigozanthos*, the black kangaroo paw is in a botanical group on its own, *Macropidia*, meaning that it is quite unique botanically, as well as its stunning appearance as one of the world's very few black flowers.

Highly prized as a garden and cut flower plant, unfortunately it has proven to be a very demanding plant in cultivation. In its wild habitat on the sand plains north of Perth, it grows in very well drained gravelly soils, and this is the clue to growing it in the garden - it needs perfect drainage.

If you want to take on the challenge of growing the black kangaroo paw (*Macropidia fuliginosa*) you need to ensure that your soil is very well drained and also keeping the foliage dry, especially in summer will help a lot. If you do not have a situation like that of its natural habitat north of Perth (dry summers and well drained soils) then growing it in a good quality potting mix in a position with as much sun as possible such as a suitably positioned greenhouse or awning, where you can stop the foliage getting wet, whilst also providing perfect drainage.

Another way of experiencing the black kangaroo paw is as a long lasting cut flower, which will generally last 2 to three weeks if you recut a couple of cm from the stem every few days as well as refreshing the water."

A regular feed with a slow-release fertiliser like Bush Tucker will supply essential nutrients and allow your natives to thrive in the garden- not just survive-encouraging an increase in high quality blooms. Apply GOGO Juice monthly to give the soil a microbial boost.

[CLICK HERE / To learn more about Bush Tucker](#)



Winter / Growing Winter Veggies



Whether you have limited space or a large backyard, a vegetable garden can be a superb addition to your garden. Before embarking on establishing a kitchen garden, there are some practicalities to consider such as what you will grow, where you will grow it, how you will lay it out, and how you will maintain it.

Your climate will impact when certain vegetables can be planted, so be sure to make appropriate selections for your location for the best results. In most circumstances, this month is a good time to add asparagus, broad bean, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, radish, spinach, spring onion, swede and turnip (all perfect ingredients for a warming winter soup!).

When deciding where to position your garden, opt for somewhere with full sun to avoid the quantity and quality of your crop being impacted. You will also need well-drained soil, and a space that is free of root competition. If possible, you may wish to find a space close to your kitchen to make it easier to sneak out for a fresh zucchini or a piece of parsley while you cook.

Set your veggie garden up for success by preparing the soil with Seamungus and Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus or Human Beans. Cover the treated area with fresh untreated soil to allow the roots to grow down into the fertiliser. Apply Human Beans again every six weeks or as required to give them a boost of nutrients while adding plenty of beneficial bacteria from the POPUL8 coating.

Mulching with Whoflungdung now will serve your vegetable garden well through winter and provides numerous benefits. Whoflungdung helps to suppress weeds, retain moisture, and regulate soil temperature, while also adding nutrients into the soil for both beneficial bacteria and plants to feed on.





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 Dr. Uwe, "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.

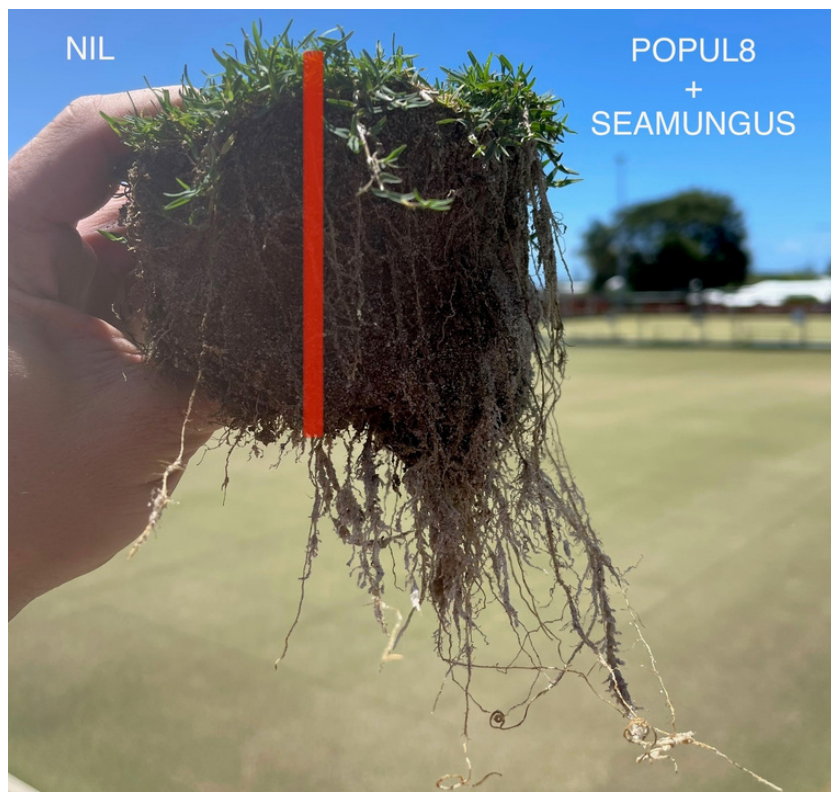
Without applying some level of these nutrients and with the bacteria and fungi in the soil removing nutrients (especially nitrogen) over winter, these nutrients can become scarce for plants coming into spring. So giving a gentle feed via a soil conditioner like Seamungus helps to ensure that when spring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

By applying Seamungus to your garden now, as soon as winter slows down and we move into spring, your garden will be ready to flourish as there is an instant level of nutrition that the plants can access and use."



R&D / POPUL8 Shows Promising Results Against Ectotrophic Root-Infecting Fungi



Ectotrophic root-infecting fungi, better known as ERI, is the name given to fungi that cause a number of root diseases in turf. They are soil-borne and produce black mycelium (fungal threads) on the surface of roots and stems, causing patchiness and poor root health. If not controlled, the scarring from the disease will stay visible and effect the playability of any turf surface.

ERI is one of the most prominent pathogens in South East Queensland and has been a major issue at the Scarborough Bowls Club in Queensland for a decade. Along with ERI the greens have also developed a significant layer of thatch which has inhibited root growth, providing a significant challenge for Greenkeeper, Rhys Thurlow after he took over the maintenance of the greens in 2022.

Rhys says, "With complex rebuilds out of the question, alternative measures needed to be implemented and after extensive research, I believed that the combination of POPUL8 and Seamungus Advanced Biological Liquid would be the perfect solution for my situation to turn thatch into organic matter whilst simultaneously suppressing disease, promoting plant strength and accelerating root growth.

The two greens that had ERI pathogens running rampant in them for nearly a decade had immediate results when applying the products regularly, and haven't showed a single sign of disease since.

With absolutely no fungicides needing to be applied in less than 12 months and a club full of happy members, I can safely say that I'll be applying POPUL8 and Seamungus indefinitely in all my maintenance programs and look forward to seeing the soil composition continue to improve over time."



Neutrog's R&D Manager, Dr Uwe says, "POPUL8 contains a number of bacteria which secrete compounds into the soil that have been shown to inhibit a range of pathogenic fungi. The most likely explanation for this situation is that the bacteria in POPUL8 have established themselves in the soil and have inhibited or killed the pathogen. The rapid and significant root development is likely due to other bacteria in POPUL8 that secrete the plant growth hormone indole-3-acetic acid (auxin). Auxins are the primary plant hormones responsible for root development.

What POPUL8 has done is reduced the pathogen load and increased root growth via biological synthesised compounds thus reducing or eliminating the need to apply harsh and potentially soil damaging chemicals."

South Pacific Rose Lovers / Creating Community with Roses



A sense of community was difficult to come by when the world was in lockdown, but while in-person connection was temporarily taken away, it was up to those most determined to establish alternative ways to keep communities connected. This is the case with a group named the 'South Pacific Rose Lover Club', who were formed by passionate gardeners to provide others a channel to learn, share and bond over this shared interest.

South Pacific Rose Lover Club was established on a social media platform called WeChat (very similar to Facebook). The club was set up to create a community for rose lovers and gardeners, who as a result of the pandemic had more time to spend in their gardens. The page was a hit, now having over 900 members across Australia and New Zealand.

Majority of the club members are from overseas and living in Australia, so creating that sense of community, particularly during lockdown, was very important.

The club has provided an outlet for members to share their achievements in the garden, their current garden projects and challenges, ask questions and connect with like minded individuals. Gardeners of all levels are welcome, and with a few experienced gardeners in the mix, it is a valuable resource for those interested in starting a garden.

For those interested in adding roses to their garden, members of the South Pacific Rose Lover Club have provided a few points to get you on the road to rose success:

1. Select your roses carefully and be sure to check the required conditions of your rose varieties before planting. Do they need full sun? Dappled shade?
2. Be careful not to overwater, as watering amounts depend on your location. Also, keep on top of pests.
3. David Austin roses are ideal for the Victorian climate, NSW less so, but it depends on where they are planted.
4. After spring blooming, gently prune your roses and fertilise. This is critical as when your roses are well fed, you can maximise your blooming period.
5. After autumn blooming, lightly prune (less than spring). Keep more leaves on the plant for photosynthesis.

Winter management of your roses is very important, so be sure to give them a good feed.

Members of the South Pacific Rose Lover Club use Sudden Impact for Roses to ensure high quality flowers, along with Rooster Booster, Strike Back for Orchids and Rocket Fuel.



Bendigo Goldfields Chrysanthemum Association Inc. / Championship Blooms



Laanecoorie was in full bloom in May while the town hosted the 2023 Bendigo Goldfields Chrysanthemum Championship for the second year, with the event also marking its 25th anniversary.

Over 300 chrysanthemums from Melbourne, Ballarat, Shepparton, Bendigo and the local area were on show, providing a terrific display of blooms of all colours, shapes and sizes.

Neutrog's Customer Relationship Manager, Helen Lovel, stopped by to assist with judging, alongside fellow judges and Bendigo Goldfields Chrysanthemum Association Inc members Graham Cain, David Richards and John Morvell.

Chrysanthemums are divided into two main groups; garden and exhibition. From that there are numerous varieties including disbuds, spider and pompom - all within a superb colour range. Garden varieties are tough, hardy plants which generally cope quite well being left to their own devices, which can make them very satisfying to grow, for little effort. They don't require fussing over by way of staking or needing support to cope with the vagaries of the weather. Exhibition varieties are the ones that were on show at the championship.

Whilst judging, the experts told Helen their preferred fertiliser for show stopping chrysanthemums is 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 / Largest Fig Collection in the Southern Hemisphere



A century ago, figs were as esteemed as apples and many people would eagerly pursue and propagate new varieties. They are ideally suited to SA, NSW, VIC and WA climates. The problem is that soft figs are difficult to transport and store, therefore, commercially figs became almost extinct in supermarkets. As a backyard fruit tree though, figs are one of the easiest and most productive to grow.

The Rare Fruit Society of SA (RFSSA) has one of the largest collections of fig varieties in the southern hemisphere which have been gathered from various sources. Before the SA Department of Primary Industries bulldozed their fig collection at Loxton, despite only one day's notice, the RFSSA were able to acquire and propagate cuttings of each of their 18 varieties. This collection is housed in one of the rare fruit arboretums at Neutrog, making all at Neutrog and members of the RFSSA extremely proud to be caring for these unique trees. Members of the RFS also grow many varieties on their properties, ensuring good numbers of trees growing elsewhere as well.

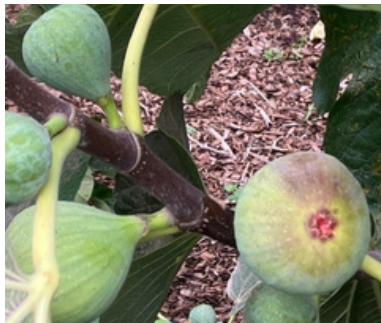
Since this initial collection the RFSSA have collected further material from around Australia. They have new varieties from Perth, Gosford, Darwin, Alice Springs, Mt. Gambier and various old trees collected near farm ruins in SA. Their collection now stands at around 40 varieties making it one of Australia's largest gene-pools. It is important that they keep track of as many of these cultivars as possible, for many were on the verge of being lost completely and many others would have become untraceable.

A number of those acquired from agricultural research stations had lost their original name tags when imported and hence became known by simple names such as R1T3 (i.e. Row 1, Tree 3), which has made identification of duplicates somewhat difficult. R1T3 is in fact a yellow fig with tasty red pulp and highly regarded by members. Netting of trees is undertaken in the arboretum. The goal being that birds do not eat all of the fruit, thus allowing for, hopefully, identification.

Others have more exotic names such as Blue Provence, White Adriatic and Spanish Dessert, again all very good figs. Green Ischia is a hardy, late fig coloured light green with strawberry flesh. It is very fine, sweet and rich; has fewer seeds than most, bears heavily, is naturally dwarfing and hence good for pot culture.

Himalayan is a unique fig, primarily used as a vegetable. It has unusual large, round leaves. It was legally imported by RFSSA member Ben Waddelow over 10 years ago, who discovered the fig being served as a curry in a roadside stall in northern India and obtained scion wood from a University source there.

The figs in the arboretum are all fertilised by the RFSSA members, using Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus. GOGO Juice is also applied and all trees are mulched with Whoflungdung. This fertilising programme is evident in the health, growth, vigour and fruiting of the trees. Quite remarkable really, when we consider how juvenile they are.



Products We Love



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

Sometimes the office needs a personal touch, and when you work with garden products and are regularly exposed to some pretty incredible gardens and projects, it is only natural to want to bring the garden indoors.

Plants are able to directly bring green, living nature into the indoor environment, and there are even studies to suggest that they can improve air quality, reduce stress levels and even improve efficiency in the workplace.

Fiddle leaf figs, peperomias and succulents are just a few of the varieties featured around the office, and it isn't uncommon to walk into the staff kitchen to a plant or two soaking in the sink!

The customer service team in particular is well known for having a collection of plants in their work space, creating a fresh and inviting atmosphere for staff and customers as they enter the head office building.

Strike Back for Orchids is the fertiliser of choice for the office plants, particularly the Advanced Biological Liquid version. It is easy to apply, has a complete range of nutrients, and provides additional beneficial bacteria to aid in increasing protection and resilience against pests and diseases.

Strike Back for Orchids is ideal for all potted, flowering and fruiting plants... not just orchids!

Application Rates

Pellets — Apply 20g (2 teaspoons) per 8 inch pot per month, with relative increases/decreases dependent upon pot size.

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



Next Month / Keep In Touch Until July!



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 July!
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:



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?

