



The Pooh Bah News



Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

Every Plant, Every Garden, Every Season has finished up for another year, and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new subscribers and thank everyone for their involvement. Giveaway entries have officially closed, and we look forward to contacting the winners over the coming days.

Despite winter not being a 'traditional' time to fertilise, we are passionate about the benefits of feeding every plant, in every garden, every season.

During winter, there may be less obvious plant growth on the surface above the ground, but there is still plenty going on below the ground. Spreading Whoflungdung can help with temperature variance and control erosion from higher rainfall, Seamungus can provide a gentle, organically based nutrient dense mid-winter boost and GOGO Juice adds the beneficial microbes that will ensure your plants have a head start for spring.

In this month's newsletter we will take you through our best tips and tricks for maintaining your lawn in winter in preparation for spring. We also feature The Biological Planet's native collection, Mona Vane Garden, the art of Kokedama 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

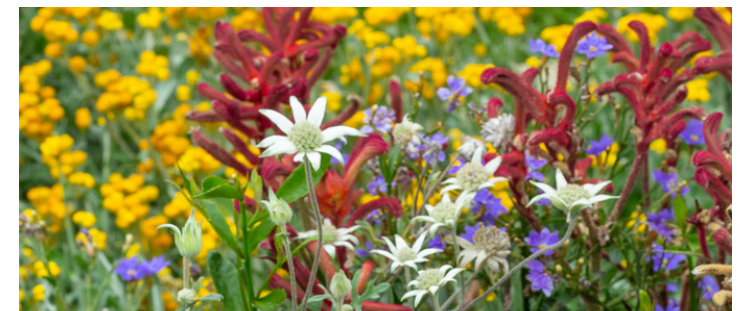
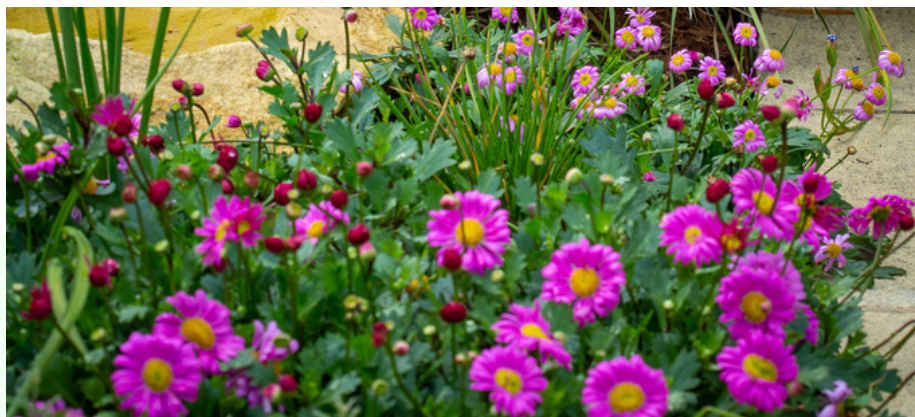


Photo of the Month / The Botanical Planet



When it comes to Australian native plants, there is a big difference between thriving and surviving. While native plants are terrific survivors, there is more that can be done to help them reach their full potential, including regular fertilising.

Before moving to Queensland, Rae from The Botanical Planet had a thriving native garden of her own in New South Wales, saying, "Most people think you don't need to feed Australian natives, but in my experience the flowering and fruiting varieties especially benefit."

With over 250 different native plants in her garden, Rae has seen the difference that regular feeding can make. "With good, organic nutrition from Bush Tucker I had constant flowers of many varieties, so there was always colour in my garden. I am no horticulturalist, but I have found some really prolific varieties can get quite fatigued after a big flowering season, so a regular application of Bush Tucker is needed to help pick them up again and get them building new growth for next season."

Rae has always loved painting flowers and began planting her Australian native cottage garden to introduce more varieties to paint. After a visit to the Australian Native Botanic Garden in Mount Annan in NSW, she became inspired by the natives she saw. "It really opened my eyes to native flowering varieties that I wasn't aware of. I started researching and learning more about the beautiful flowering plants that went well beyond wattles and grevilleas."

Rae has now left this garden behind, moving to Queensland where she has started to establish a new garden. Her previous work is an example of the beautiful impact that giving your natives some attention and care can have. A regular feed with an organic based fertiliser like Bush Tucker or the new Bush Tucker Advanced Biological Formula which is currently being trialled across Australia, will supply essential nutrients and allow your natives to thrive in the garden- not just survive.

This beautiful collection of images was kindly supplied by Rae. You can view more of her garden photos on her blog called 'The Botanical Planet' by clicking [HERE](#).

Bush Tucker is available in pellet form, and will soon be available as an Advanced Biological Formula.



Improvements at Kanmantoo



The composting pads at Neutrog's Kanmantoo factory are currently in the process of receiving improvements, and its only when the composted material has been removed, that we can grasp just how large the composting pads are!

The area that you see in the photo is usually full of cone shaped piles of compost.



Over time material builds up and as part of ongoing site improvements in June, groundworks were completed using a layered structure of clay and limestone to improve site drainage and vehicle manoeuvrability.



We have also received a new backup generator which is capable of keeping our head office, laboratory and liquid production areas functioning in the event of a power outage.

Dr Uwe Presents at the 2023 Dahlia Society of Australia Annual Conference



Over the June long weekend, the 2023 Australian Dahlia Society of Australia Annual Conference was hosted by the Dahlia Society of South Australia in McLaren Vale, bringing together passionate dahlia growers from across Australia.

Spanning over four days, the event included presentations from a variety of speakers including Neutrog's R&D Manager, Dr Uwe Stroehler who presented 'Breeding Better Soils' educating gardeners about the importance of healthy soils for healthy plants.

It was a pleasure to be involved with this event, and we now look forward to the Australian Dahlia Society Annual Championship which is set to be held in South Australia in 2024.

Neutrog and the Dahlia Society of South Australia have had a long relationship, with both involved with the dahlia garden at the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Trials were recently conducted in the garden to determine if increasing microbial activity in the soil with Whoflungdung has the potential to combat mosaic viral diseases. The trial was a success, with the blooms showing no signs of distress.

Product of the Month / GOGO Juice



Humans use probiotics everyday to add good bacteria to the gut and maintain good health... but what if you could do the same thing for your garden?

GOGO Juice does exactly that, but instead of maintaining a healthy gut it provides necessary beneficial microbes to encourage a healthy, biologically active soil both in the ground and in pots.

GOGO Juice inoculates your soil with a wide range of beneficial bacteria and fungi which then multiply. The microbes activate the natural processes that occur in the soil, speeding up the decomposition of the residual organic and mineral compounds, ultimately increasing the nutrient availability and stimulating growth.

The carefully selected microbes have been proliferated utilising complex carbohydrates and sugars through a unique aerobic brewing system in which the kelp, seaweed, humic acid and manure have been digested by the beneficial bacteria. The resultant product provides a huge boost of the living microbiology necessary for your soil and plants to perform at their optimum level, increasing their ability to resist pest and disease and to withstand heat and frost stress.



Now is an ideal time to try GOGO Juice in your garden as the temperatures continue to plummet. It can be used on your entire garden including vegetables, natives, and all potted plants in conjunction with your year round fertilising program. It can also be added to the compost heap, adding the microbes needed to speed up the process!

GOGO Juice is used by home gardeners and commercial operations across Australia, including Flemington Racecourse, the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, and Victoria State Rose Garden.



GOGO Juice Applications

1 capful of GOGO Juice diluted in 10 litres of water will treat up to 8 square metres of soil. Use diluted product within one week of dilution.

For optimum results, apply once per month in conjunction with your existing year round fertilising program.

GOGO Juice is available in a 1 litre concentrate and a 2 litre ready-to-use spray pack.

Winter Fertilising / Lawncare



When the thermometer drops and your lawn is no longer actively growing, there are still things that you can do to ensure your lawn sees through winter and gets a good head start for the new growing season ahead.

Watering and mowing needs at this time of year are low. It is best to leave some extra length on the leaves to allow more surface area for photosynthesis for a healthier and greener lawn. While your mower is taking a break for the season, to book it in for a service in readiness for spring.

A common winter problem for turf is compaction particularly after wet weather, so try to avoid traffic on your lawn where possible. You can also aerate your lawn to help air get to the root zone and loosen the soil, which will also prevent waterlogging.

If you're noticing small discoloured or even dead patches of grass, it's time to act now as these can be signs of a lawn disease. Disease is more prevalent when night temperatures are low and can be exacerbated when there is water sitting on the leaf blades. Thatch can be a breeding ground for spores, so lawn care that reduces thatch build-up is ideal.



Finally, giving your lawn a light feed now will result in rapid growth and well-nourished spring shoots as soon as the sun comes out again. An excellent product to add to your winter lawn care regime is Neutrog's Blade Runner. This slow release fertiliser feeds your lawn, keeping it healthy through the cold and wet months, and thus less susceptible to disease.

Blade Runner is widely used throughout Australia by professional turf managers in a variety of applications including tennis courts, sporting ovals, golf courses and bowling greens. It is particularly suitable for new lawns and winter applications on established lawns where the slow release properties help prevent thatch build up.

Blade Runner Applications

On new lawns, evenly spread 200g per square metre and incorporate into the top 10cm of the soil prior to seeding or laying.

For established lawns, apply 100g per square metre every 10 to 12 weeks throughout the year.



R&D / POPUL8 for Fusarium on Cherry Trees



Fusarium is a large genus of soil fungi found in many parts of the world that can have devastating impact on plants, particularly in commercial growing operations and nurseries. There are over 1,000 species of Fusarium which can result in stem cankers, foot and root rot, and wilting.

Three cherry trees budded onto the same root stock were recently sent to Neutrog from a grower in Victoria to check for the presence of Fusarium.

A wedge of the roots and surrounding soil was cut out of each of the trees and screened on potato dextrose agar. "Initial analysis revealed the presence of a fungi which is potentially Fusarium in two of the three samples. Fusarium can often be distinguished from other fungi in that it shows as a light pink colour on the growth media. We will now regrow and purify these potential Fusarium isolates for definitive identification," says Dr Uwe.

Each of the trees had already been treated with a biological treatment, with one of them treated with POPUL8. "The first and most obvious observation was that the tree given POPUL8 had significantly superior and stronger root development.

POPUL8 contains several microbes which we know in a laboratory setting show strong inhibition and killing of a range of Fusarium species and isolates, so it isn't surprising that the plant treated with POPUL8 showed little to no level of Fusarium in the sample."



R&D Partner / Nourishing the Gardens at Flemington Racecourse



Keeping the rose bushes in top condition is an important task undertaken at Flemington Racecourse in Victoria. Sticking to a regular feeding program provides the roses with a regular source of nutrition year-round, giving them the best chance to flourish and create the famous displays for the spring carnival.

With 16,500 roses in their care, Daniel Williams (pictured) and the staff at Flemington Racecourse have been spreading Seamungus on the roses throughout winter. This has been part of their fertilising routine for over 20 years, as they prepare the soils for the warmer months to come.

By using Seamungus in the cooler months, they are providing nutrition to keep the soil biologically active allowing for healthy growth come springtime.

Senior manager of Gardens and Grounds at Flemington Racecourse, Mick Ryan previously said "I think of it as like using conditioner on your hair because you want lovely bouncy hair, and Seamungus makes the soil bounce!"

Seamungus is a great year round health tonic and winter fertiliser, helping your plants resist frost, pests and disease as well as conditioning the soil and encouraging root growth.

Seamungus is a soil and plant conditioner manufactured by brewing seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure. Seaweed contains naturally occurring growth stimulants along with a range of other essential elements. Seamungus is used for revitalising all plants throughout the year (including natives) and is ideal for establishing new plants, particularly bare-rooted roses.



Mona Vane Garden / Planting Happiness



Science tells us that gardening can do wonders for your wellbeing, boosting your mental health by improving serotonin levels. Simply planting a seed, digging into the earth or picking some fresh blooms can provide a valuable boost of happiness, something that Jess from Mona Vane Garden knows better than most.

Jess and husband James moved to their 1890s homestead, Mona Vane, just outside of Warren in central west NSW in 2015. Since then, they have welcomed three daughters - Elsie (eldest) and twins Audrey and Eliza.

Their time at the property hasn't come without its challenges however, with droughts, floods, and personal struggles. After a long battle with cancer, Jess' mother passed away when Elsie was only seven months old. While dealing with the loss, Jess also noticed her health had taken a major setback while on maternity leave after having her twins.

Jess started the Instagram page for Mona Vane Garden a few months into her maternity leave, saying "It forced me outside as I wanted to get my hands dirty and connect with likeminded people. It got me outdoors and moving, became an excellent stress reliever, helped me feel better and gave me more energy. I was more motivated to get up off the lounge to achieve more in the day. I needed sun on my face and wind in my hair."

Gardening helps me to escape the monotony of motherhood. Being outside gives me the time to reflect. Reflect on the time I spent with my own mother who loved gardening... Gardening made her happy, and I believe it makes me happy too."



The existing gardens at Mona Vane included a beautiful range of Moreton Bay figs and Jacaranda trees, creating a thick blanket of purple petals every November. Perhaps the most unique feature on the property is a bougainvillea climbing up the water tank stand. Roses have become a key component of the gardens, with Jess having planted more than 150 roses in an assortment of colours including pinks, oranges and creams.

Jess uses a variety of Neutrog products to keep the soil productive and the plants thriving including Seamungus Crumble, Rapid Raiser and POPUL8. A favourite of hers is Sudden Impact for Roses Advanced Biological Formula and pellets. She gives flowering plants a regular foliar feed to ensure strong flowers and encourage a longer flowering period.

"I believe mental health is like gardening - it's forever changing, ever evolving and may need a dose of fertiliser to keep us happy and healthy." Follow the journey at @mona_vane_garden by clicking [HERE](#).

Earth Moss Twine / Kokedama



Kokedama is one of the most unique ways to display indoor and ornamental plants. Traditionally, a Kokedama is made from a mixture of mud, clay & moss that surrounds the roots of the plant (usually ferns and weedy types of flowering plants) and bound together with string. Over the years, the art form has been adapted to incorporate a wide range of plants by using an appropriate soil and then covering with moss and twine.

Christie from @earthmosstwine knows all there is to know about Kokedama where she uses her passion to grow and create plants in Kokedama to sell at local markets in Brisbane, QLD.

"When people visit me at the markets, I give them as much info as I can in regards to the Kokedama they have chosen. We have a chat about what specific lighting they have in the space they would like to display it & how often they are available to care/water their new Kokedama. Then, they walk away with care instructions that they can refer back to."

Like plants in the garden or planted in a pot, Kokedamas need water, light, and nourishment. Looking after your Kokedama well can result in a plant that lives healthily and happily for many years.

When the ball is dry to the touch, it is time for water. Keep in mind the type of plant you have and the size of the Kokedama as this will also affect the watering needs. To water, simply place the Kokedama in a bucket or bowl filled with water to soak for around 15 minutes, then allow to drip dry before returning to its stand.

You can fertilise when watering by adding a liquid fertiliser like Strike Back for Orchids Advanced Biological Formula to the water before soaking. The nutrients will encourage strong foliage and flowers.

Christie tells us she religiously feeds her orchids with Strike Back for Orchids Advanced Biological Formula, saying "Since using it, all of my orchids have continuously bloomed."

"I also use Rooster Booster. I grow natives and other flowers to dry for making wreaths and wooden based flower arrangements."

You can find out more about Kokedamas on Instagram at [@earthmosstwine](https://www.instagram.com/earthmosstwine). Christie sells Kokedamas at Redcliff Markets every Sunday, so if you're in the area, be sure to stop by for a chat!



Rare Fruit Arboretum / Discovery Apples



Apples grow in a variety of colours, shapes and patterns on the outside, but its whats on the inside that has us surprised!

We recently came across a story about a brand new apple that would soon be available for Australian consumers called the 'Kissabel' apple. It is a cross between a traditional apple and a crabapple, with its most striking feature being the red flesh on the inside.

We checked in with Brenton Kortman from the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia to see if there are any similar apple varieties in the Rare Fruit Arboretum in Kanmantoo and were surprised to learn that the 'Discovery' apple can have similar features.

"The Kissabel is one of a number of red fleshed apples that are being developed by crossing traditional apples with crabapples. Other varieties include Huonville crab and Magnus Surprise. We have something similar in the arboretum called Discovery, which has a dark red skin, a red inside and tastes fantastic," says Brenton.

The red flesh is often caused by the skin colour 'bleeding' into the white flesh of the fruit, dappling it with a red/pink hue. The strength of the colour can vary.



Products We Love / Christie Garwood, Graphic Designer



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

This month we introduce you to our Graphic Designer, Christie Garwood and why her favourite product is Whoflungdung.

"Maintaining a beautiful garden at home can be quite the challenge, especially when you have two furry friends running around. My garden bed was once dull and uninteresting, but I was able to spruce it up by planting some succulent cuttings given to me by a friend. With the help of Whoflungdung, my garden bed is now looking great."

The plants have now grown bigger and they are all coping really well with the wet and windy weather we have had this winter. Whoflungdung has helped reduce erosion from the heavy rain, protecting the roots and keeping the plants happy."



Application Rates

Apply a uniform layer of Whoflungdung at 25mm to 100mm deep to cover soil, leaving 50mm to 100mm gap around base of any plants, trees or shrubs.

Each bale covers approximately 3-6m².

Next Month / Keep In Touch Until August!



Year round fertilising for year round health



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 August!
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?

