



The Pooh Bah News

Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

If you've been part of the Neutrog community for some time, you'd know that we believe that every season in the garden deserves celebrating AND fertilising, but we also recognise that for a lot of gardeners, spring is hard to beat.

September is bound to be a beautiful month as we welcome the fresh air and the gentle sun of spring. Fresh seedlings will begin to sprout, spring bulbs are ready to burst with colour and fragrance and trees will soon be showing off their blossoms. With warmer conditions on their way, now is the time to sow summer flowering bulbs and enjoy some spring planting, flower bed clean outs and elimination of any pesky pests. Most importantly, it is time to give your plants a feed!

On the other hand, spring conditions also bring frost, posing a threat for your plants. On still nights the cold air settles to the ground and as the temperature drops below freezing point, any water in or on the plant freezes. Frost damage can be avoided with good nutrition to boost your plant's natural resistance, along with a thick blanket of Whoflungdung to mulch.

In this month's newsletter we welcome in the new season with some tips for maintaining the perfect hedge. We also feature the 'Red Sand Garden' at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, native blooms at the 10th Australian Wildflower Conference, container tomato growing with gardening expert Ian Tolley OAM. CF., and much more.

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

Happy gardening!
The Neutrog Team

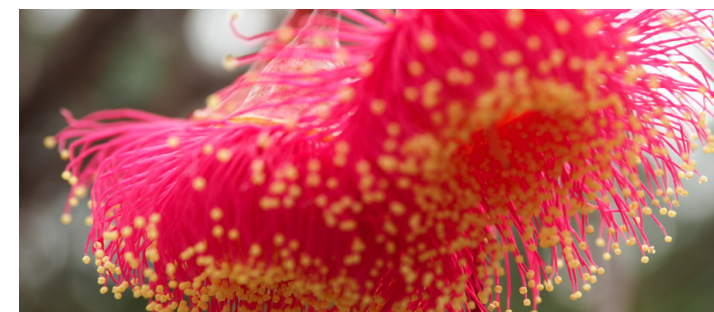


Photo of the Month

Native Flowers on Display at the Australian Wildflower Conference



WildFlowers Australia is the national industry association representing and supporting the commercial wildflower industry, and this year they were the hosts of the 10th Australian Wildflower Conference held in Echuca-Moama, VIC/NSW.

Farm tours commenced in Mt. Gambier with delegates making their way across to Victoria for the industry and trade expo. More than 160 growers of cut native flowers, from across Australia attended the event which was a great opportunity to learn and network. The agenda included numerous guest speakers specialising in many areas of growing great Australian native plants for the cut flowers. This included revered native plant expert Angus Stewart and Neutrog's Dr. Uwe Stroehler.

Tatalia Function Centre was 'best dressed' for the event, with a number of flower displays consisting of native plants generously donated by local flower farms. There were banksias, eucalyptus, flannel flowers and kangaroo paws just to name a few, and as you can see in these photos, they set the perfect backdrop for what was a fantastic few days.

After meeting some fascinating people and businesses at the conference and trade expo, Helen, Dr. Uwe and Angus joined the wildflower farm tours on the final day of the event.

A day travelling to farms around the district was wonderful and included the stunning banksias grown by Dave, Kodi & Michael Sandy Hill Banksias and the wonderful farm of Zoe from Zoe's Little Flower Farm and her Dad, John from Circle T Wiltipoll Sheep where they grow a diverse range of native foliage for the floristry market.

It was a wonderful opportunity allowing valuable time spent with passionate growers, horticulturists and scientists who were all so willing and happy to share their story, knowledge and advice. If there's any regrets, it's that we weren't able to visit all of the brilliant properties who made the conference so fantastic!

All of these natives have us feeling very excited about the release of our NEW Bush Tucker Advanced Biological Formula, which is now available in a sample 500mL bottle for \$19.95.

This is only available from Neutrog's website, so if you would like to be amongst the first to try it, please go to shop.neutrog.com.au



The Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch) visit Neutrog



After a long relationship with the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch) who endorse Neutrog's specialised fertiliser for acid loving plants, Kahoona, we were pleased to welcome its members to our factory and laboratory in Kanmantoo for a tour late last month.

Conditions were ideal for a morning of manufacturing and biology, where the members had a behind-the-scenes look at the science and processes that form our iconic range of biological fertilisers.

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

Great Company at Neutrog's Company Lunch in August



Whilst it is normally our Customer Relationship Managers that are visiting Bunnings stores, this month our company lunch was attended by staff from Bunnings Mount Barker, who were keen to see what goes into the creation of Neutrog products.

Following a delicious lunches served by Does Catering, our guests were taken on a tour of the manufacturing facilities and the laboratory, where they were able to see first hand the process that goes into creating the products that they usually see on store shelves.

The Bunnings team were also joined by shareholders, staff from the Adelaide Botanic Garden and the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

Product of the Month

Whoflungdung

Mulching is an essential tool for creating a low maintenance and water wise garden where your plant roots and the soil are protected from seasonal conditions, from Australia's harsh summer sun to the heavy rains of winter. By mulching regularly and choosing a biologically activated mulch like Whoflungdung, you are not only protecting your garden but you are providing huge benefits to your soil.

Whoflungdung - otherwise known as Neutrog's 'super mulch' - is activated by eNcase and filled with nutrients that when added to the soil introduces a wide variety of good bacteria to encourage healthy growth and reduce weeds.

Remarkably, Whoflungdung came into existence as a way to manage the 'waste' product from a 'waste' product. Our chicken farmers had introduced additional bedding in the form of straw and wood shavings into their chicken sheds to increase the health and wellbeing of their chickens. While the chickens loved the new environment, it meant that when we came in to remove all the 'waste' from a shed there was more bulk than had been there previously.

Before our composted manure is pelletised, we screen it to remove any bulky pieces that can't go through our pelleting press. With the chicken's new bedding, the amount of bulky composted manure that was getting screened out increased and was just going to waste.

That was until our MD looked at it from a different perspective. This 'waste' contained a fantastically diverse blend of composted chicken manure, straw, and wood shavings. It had the benefit of being inoculated with eNcase and so had all the ingredients and potential to be a very unique and effective mulch.

From there it was into the R&D lab and then trials both on our site at Kanmantoo and on the Rymill Park roses through the Adelaide City Council, proved it was something special.

The name, (which we get asked about a lot!) also came from our MD and is a very catchy and very factual statement for how our super mulch is manufactured. The 'dung' gets quite literally 'flung' out a chute from the screener.



Application

Once the ground starts to warm up and before it gets too hot, lay down a layer of Whoflungdung around 25mm to 100mm deep to cover the soil.

The timing of this will vary depending on what part of Australia you are based, but ideally you want to capture the moisture of the soil from winter as well as the warmth of spring soil temperatures.

Always keep a 50mm to 100mm gap between the mulch and the base of any trees or plants.

Spring Fertilising

Are your hedges in shape for spring?

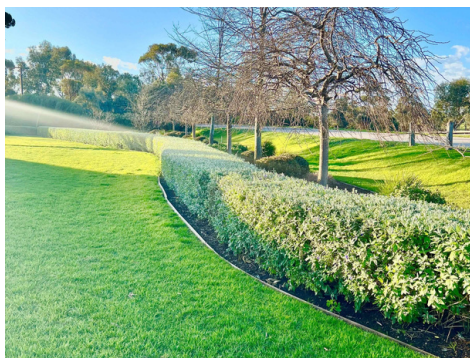


Hedges can be anything that a gardener desires – a border to define spaces, privacy screen from the neighbours and passersby, lush green backdrop to hide less favourable sceneries... but how do you keep them lush and healthy year-round? In this article we'll share our best tips and general wisdom to follow when it comes to caring for your hedges.

There are three main areas that you need to keep on top of when it comes to hedge care this spring – pruning, watering and feeding!

PRUNE — Pruning is essential to growing a healthy hedge, and although it seems counterintuitive, it can actually encourage a hedge to grow faster. Most hedge varieties will need a heavy prune in late winter while the plant is still dormant, and then a couple of light trims during the growing season to encourage that new growth.

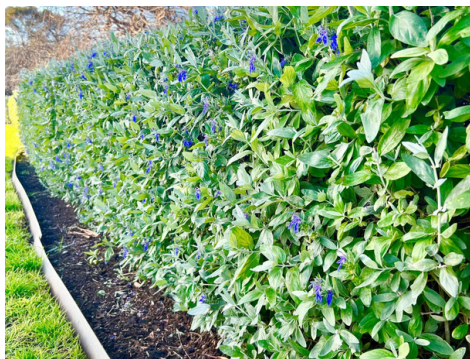
When shaping, aim for a hedge that is slightly narrower at the top and wider at the bottom to ensure sunlight can reach the whole plant.



WATER — Watering your hedges regularly will help to encourage healthy new growth, particularly when our spring and summer conditions become hot and dry. Installing a watering system will be very beneficial here. Be sure to give them plenty of water, as the close nature of the planting means there will be more competition for resources between the individual hedge plants.

FEED — Regular feeding is critical to the long term health of your hedge and should be done during the active growing period from spring to early autumn. Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPUL8 Hose-On is an ideal choice with Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium and a range of micronutrients for strong, lush green plants.

A hedge that is well maintained and cared for will be less likely to fall victim to pests and diseases, and with the addition of our Advanced Soil Biological, POPUL8 in Sudden Impact for Lawns you can ensure that each feed is not only nourishing your plants and soil, but also protecting them.



Mulching with Whoflungdung is also recommended to deter competition from weeds, regulate soil temperature and retain moisture. The Whoflungdung breaks down over time, adding organic material back into the soil.

These principles are used on the hedges at Neutrog with great success.

[CLICK HERE / To learn more about Sudden Impact for Lawns](#)



R&D Partner

The Red Sand Garden at the Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne



The Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne's award-winning Australian garden is an immersive experience that captures the beauty and diversity of Australian landscapes and flora. The Australian Garden features over 100,000 plants, with over 450 indigenous plant species.

One of the most prominent sections of the garden is the 'Red Sand Garden', which is located just beyond the visitors centre. What makes this section so striking is hinted in the name with its vast area of thick, red sand. The garden is an artistic interpretation of Australia's iconic Red Centre, echoing the shapes and colours of Central Australia.

Circles feature over the desert-like scene, representing the vegetation that is dotted throughout our arid landscapes. Westringia, better known as coastal rosemary, were used to form these circles which created a soft green, almost grey appearance.

Horticulture staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne recently applied 300kg Bush Tucker across the Westringia circles, giving them a nutritional boost in readiness for spring.

The Australian Garden is open to the public 9am – 5pm daily. You can find out more about the garden by [clicking here](#).





A team from Neutrog, along with key distributor Farmer Johns, attended a four day Masterclass and Accreditation at the Global Centre for Land-Based Innovation at Western Sydney University in August, where R&D Manager Uwe Stroehrer was one of the key speakers.

Facilitated and led by world-leading soil ecologist Professor Brajesh Singh FAA, the course was attended by approximately 70+ soil scientists, agronomists, farmers, researchers and consultants.

While it would be impossible to accurately relay the breadth of the content covered across the four days, here are some of the key facts that our Marketing Manager, noted down:

- Peak phosphorus (the point at which we reach the maximum global production of phosphorus) is expected in 2033, driving a need for more efficient use, alternatives and means for accessing the phosphorus currently 'locked-up' in soil.
- Fixing nitrogen by biology, is the most energy intensive biological reaction, on the planet!
- Soil is the most biodiverse ecosystem on earth, home to approximately 59% of all global species
- Having healthy soil, minimises annual variations in plant performance by providing resilience to biotic and abiotic stress.
- "If I could recommend that you do just one thing to encourage microbial activity in soil, it is increase the organic matter" Prof. Brajesh Singh
- Fungal diversity drives soil physical health, while bacterial diversity drives chemical health.
- Indicators of soil health are aggregate stability (soil architecture), water holding capacity and microbiome attributes

Along with lectures and group based learning, tours were also conducted in the Western Sydney University greenhouses and also at the nearby EucFACE (Eucalyptus Free Air CO₂ Enrichment) Trial site.



The Expert's Choice

Container Tomato Growing Success with Ian Tolley OAM. CF.



Tomatoes are one of the most common plants for backyard vegetable gardens, but with that they've become a source of many triumphs and failures for gardeners. To help you with your tomato growing journey, Ian Tolley OAM. CF. has kindly provided the below guide to successfully planting and growing tomatoes in containers.

Ian is a specialist and internationally renowned expert in seed and seedling production, orchard planning, establishment, and management, and also patron of the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia. His experience and knowledge of horticulture is a valuable resource for gardeners of all levels, and as such we hope you enjoy this article that he has so kindly provided.

"I have been growing good crops of Cherry tomatoes in 120L containers with a maximum of three seedlings per container (never overcrowd), supported on a vertical piece of steel reinforcing 20cm square mesh, 1.3m tall, spaced 30cms above container top level. In fact, this third winter in the Riverland, SA, I am carrying another heavy crop on the original plants.

I am about to prepare new potting media (pH 6.5-7) with added Dolomite (Calcium Magnesium Carbonate to avoid blossom end blight) ready for new 20cm tall seedlings by the coming Spring.

Avoid Overwatering — The depth of the container ensures I maintain the top half of the media only at 'field capacity' and avoids any chance of overwatering ('saturation' i.e. NO AIR). The container is on bricks, which allows me to check if excess water is seeping out the large drainage holes. These holes are covered with plastic mesh easily sourced as gutter mesh. Don't mulch as it increases the chance of overwatering the critical top roots.

Timing — I headed this review under May as it is better if your plants, in your own microclimate, are well established before the heat of summer puts them under pressure.

If you need to consider frost, grow your seedlings up to 20cm height in hothouse conditions, before planting into your final container. Likewise, a plastic cover is easily fitted on the large container.

Remove the lower leaves up to the first side shoots and plant them up to that depth. New, additional roots will develop rapidly on that bare, planted stem.



Continued...

Fertilisation and Biota — I always add Seamungus, a full nutrient spectrum range soil conditioner to my original media.

It is the only chance to spread them throughout the whole media profile. Adding GOGO Juice at the same time of mixing the media ensures I have a full range of biota incorporated, that will start to break down the nutrients so the plants can absorb them as soon as they start growing. I also use the same strategy in my garden beds and citrus collection.

A higher level of Potash is always a bonus for Tomatoes, producing better quality and production. Never apply extra Nitrogen. Tomatoes react badly to excess amounts. with a reduction in crop production.

'In-Determinate' Cultivars — If you are not wanting to preserve, choose INDETERMINATE varieties to obtain long term harvesting. Just a few of very many cultivars to choose from, include: two different forms of Beefsteak; Big Boy; Roma; and Tommy Toe. Search Google for much more variety detail.

Leaf Management — I mentioned early leaf removal, but it is very important, as the plants grow, to remove any non-thriving leaf through the plant's full growth history as soon as you suspect such a leaf is not in top condition. Put them in a black garbage bag and 'sun cook' them to safely dispose of a potential disease problem.



Seamungus and Gyganic for Fruit, Veggies and Citrus are ideal for developing a good soil base and delivering a balance of nutrients for healthy plant and root growth.

Seamungus Application — Mix 100g per square metre of Seamungus throughout the potting mix or ground prior to planting.

Gyganic Application — Once your plant is 8 weeks old, begin fertilising every 8 weeks throughout the season to encourage floriferous plants with enhanced tomato size, quality and flavour.



[CLICK HERE / To learn more about Seamungus and Gyganic](#)

The Farm - Clarendon

Poultry, flowers and produce with Emma & Ryan



Located in Clarendon, just a short drive from South Australia's McLaren Vale region, Ryan French and Emma Gilbert run 'The Farm - Clarendon'. At the heart of The Farm is a poultry hatchery, but over time they have also developed a strong passion for growing stunning organic flowers and produce.

Emma has had a longstanding passion and love for dahlias, and is involved with the Dahlia Society of South Australia as a member of the committee. When she isn't tending to the animals including 80 different breeds of heritage poultry and highland cattle folds, she spends her time maintaining 100 square metres (and growing - much to her partners heartache!) of raised garden beds.

'The Farm' is currently only using certified organic products across the property including Neutrog's Rapid Raiser, Seamungus, Rocket Fuel, and Blade Runner which form their year round fertilising program to nourish the soils and lush lawn areas.

Emma and Ryan say, "Farming is in our blood, we want to leave this land in better shape for future generations".

Both the farm and the garden are holistically managed following principles outlined by Allan Savoury for 'future-focused' land management. They use a no-dig principle, and with approximately 1200 chooks at hand, there is never a shortage of poultry manure to nourish the gardens. "The biodiversity and soil structure are the biggest elements to our success when growing our bold, vibrant cut flowers and heirloom vegetable varieties."

Emma's passion for flowers begun years ago and was significantly influenced by an online course she underwent with US flower specialist, Erin Benzakein from 'Floret Flowers'. These learnings inspired a new trajectory for Emma, who now grows a wide range of cut flowers at The Farm with her specialities being dahlias, zinnias, ranunculus, sweet peas and cosmos. She also grows a range of natives including baby blue eucalyptus and king proteas.

Emma currently is hosting workshops to help educate fellow flower lovers on how to dig, divide and take cuttings from various cut flowers at their 20 acre farm. Guests can take a walk through the garden and learn about different plant varieties and how to grow them.



[CLICK HERE / To learn more about The Farm - Clarendon](#)

Veggie Patch Success

with Emily Greer from Ace Ohlsson, NSW

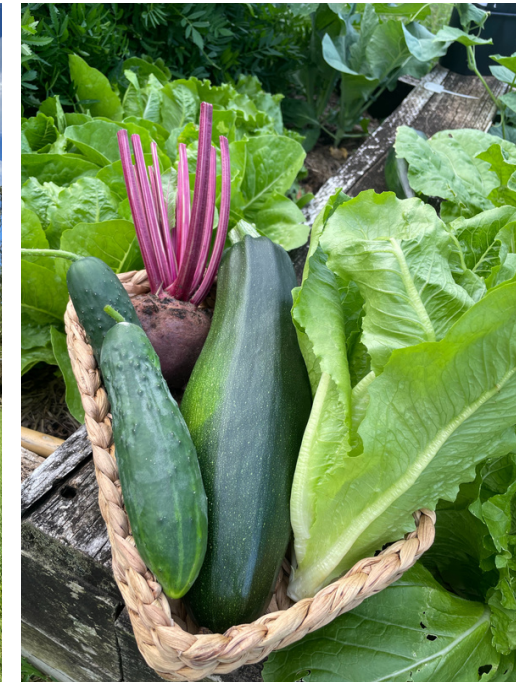


There is something about growing your own produce that creates excitement in the garden. Taking your garden from a bare piece of soil to a productive vegetable patch is a journey, and one that Emily from Ace Ohlsson McGraths Hill is enjoying all the benefits of.

As a member of the Ace Ohlsson team, Emily knows all too well the importance of good nutrition for a quality crop, no matter what their customers are growing. The same goes for the home garden where a healthy soil is essential for a thriving garden.

These principles were applied to Emily's home vegetable patch, where she regularly feeds her garden with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus, mulches with Whoflungdung, and waters with POPUL8 with great results.

She now proudly shares her veggie gardening experiences (and produce) with her Ace Ohlsson colleagues and customers, and happily recommends the Neutrog range in store.



Australian Native Arboretum

Planting begins with the Australian Plant Society of SA



As part of Neutrog's commitment to community, conservation and gardening, we are thrilled to announce that planting has commenced in the new native arboretum. A working bee was held in mid-August and attended by members of the Australian Plants Society of South Australia , Neutrog MD Angus Irwin & Helen Level.

The arboretum which is a joint project between Neutrog and the Australian Plant Society of South Australia is dedicated to rare and endangered Australian native plants, with a focus on South Australian natives. The bulk of this first planting consisted of edible fruits, seeds, nuts and bulbs, including: Acacia, Thysanotus, Kunzea and Bulbine species.

Further planting will occur with many rare and endangered species being planted. Some so rare that there are less than 200 known plants growing in the region from which they are indigenous. Hans Griesser, President of the APS of SA, commented "conservation is so important and to have a repository where we can grow species that are so unusual is of such enormous value; to not just Neutrog and the APS, but to the wider community. In many instances, it is difficult to find a location for these plants, because by their very nature they can be difficult to grow and that's not what many people want."

Greg Kirby, past President of the Australian Plant Society of South Australia has been instrumental in sourcing the varieties planted Sunday and his efforts and contribution have been absolutely amazing. This is just the start and between Hans and Greg and the rest of the team who are working with Neutrog, and there'll be a lot more exciting news to come.





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 October!
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?

