



**Dear Readers,**

In this months newsletter:

Charcoal Rot trial on strawberries in Victoria  
SALIV8 trials on capsicums at the Adelaide Botanic Garden  
New appointments to Neutrog  
Neutrog December/January trading

If you are interested in more information about Neutrog, please let us know at [marketing@neutrog.com.au](mailto:marketing@neutrog.com.au) to make sure you receive both our monthly newsletters.

The one you're reading now is commercially focused, while we also put together a newsletter dedicated to growing plants at home. Each month we collate seasonal advice from experts, product profiles and garden features with a full insight into Neutrog.

**Kind Regards,**  
**The Neutrog Team**





# Charcoal Rot Trial on Strawberries in Victoria



**Anthony Mulluso, is a third generation strawberry grower from Silvan Victoria. Anthony has 40 acres, with 20 acres sown with strawberries and the remainder on rotational cropping.**

The family business is currently growing a variety of strawberries called Albion, which they have been growing for the past 15 years. The variety comes from California and is known for its sweetness, even when the fruit is still green.

Like many strawberry growers, Anthony and his family work to manage the risk of a disease called Charcoal Rot, that can have a devastating impact, particularly as the weather warms up.

Charcoal Rot' or *Macrophomina phaseolina* is a fungus affecting over 500 different plant species, but particularly devastating for commercial strawberry growers. Currently there are no fungicides registered to treat Charcoal Rot in strawberries in Australia, which means many growers use a biofumigant as part of a rotational crop strategy to help control the disease.

Through his distributor, Anthony has been working with Neutrog's R&D team to trial a custom blend biocontrol agent on his strawberries and the first application was applied in mid-November.

In Neutrog laboratory trials, individual isolates have demonstrated their ability to inhibit the growth of Charcoal Rot and we are optimistic that these field trials will mirror those results and provide scope to offer growers a biological formula to help support healthy crops.

When asked if any improvements have been noticed already, Anthony stated " even after two weeks you can see an overall increase in growth and vigor in the plants".





# SALIV8 Trials on Capsicums at the Adelaide Botanic Garden



**Neutrog are undertaking a trial with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens at Mt Lofty to see if the flavour of capsicums and tomatoes can be improved – with microbes.**

It is known that the microbes in the soil and on the plant can influence a whole variety of plant characteristics including, increasing the level of antioxidants and altering flavour.

During the trial, two varieties of each of these plants will be assessed with some plants being given a biological inoculant currently under development, known as SALIV8.

SALIV8 is a formula comprising specifically chosen microbes that the Neutrog R&D team believe will enhance the flavour.

“The ability to enhance flavours, and potentially nutritional value, by the use of a microbial inoculant represents an exciting opportunity not only for the home gardener but also in the commercial setting” Dr Uwe Stroehrer, R&D Manager, Neutrog.

The control group will be given water instead of the microbial inoculant. After the fruits have ripened a blind taste test will be conducted. The testers will not know which plants have been given SALIV8 and which are the control group.

Hopefully, those given the inoculant will have improved flavour, and perhaps even smell.

In total there are 32 plants in the trial. Four of each variety and species given SALIV8 and four control plants in each grouping.

We look forward to sharing how the trial progresses.

# New Appointments



## **Luke Wormald**

*Commercial Sales Representative, SA*

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Luke Wormald to the position of Commercial Sales Representative with Neutrog.

With over 36 years of experience in viticulture and business development in farming machinery and ag chem, Luke has a natural interest in agribusiness and servicing those in the industry which will no doubt be of great value as he pursues his new position with Neutrog.

As Commercial Sales Representative, Luke will be working closely with growers and distributors across South Australia to strengthen relationships and provide access to Neutrog's range of biological fertilisers.



## **Natasha Girdler**

*Commercial Customer Sales Representative*

We are also thrilled to announce the appointment of existing Neutrog team member, Natasha Girdler to the newly created position of Commercial Customer Sales Representative based in Neutrog's Kanmantoo head office.

Natasha has extensive customer service experience which will be of great benefit as she engages with commercial customers and distributors in this role.

# Neutrog December/January Trading

**Following a busy spring, we will be using some time over the Christmas/New Year period to do some maintenance and housekeeping at Kanmantoo, and some of our sales team will be taking leave, please see details below.**

## **Head Office/Phone Enquiries:**

Open 7am til 5:30pm, excluding public holidays.

## **Sales/Orders:**

**Luke Wormald** will be working normal hours excluding public holidays. You can also contact your normal representative and a member of our team will get back to you should they be away at the time.

## **Warehouse/Dispatch:**

Open 7am til 5:30pm, excluding public holidays.

Due to the public holidays, (and subsequent school holidays in January), when considering order requirements in January and early February, advance notice would be well received for Production planning over that time.

## **Marketing:**

Our Marketing team will be working over the break and are always happy to hear feedback from growers or even just sharing photos of your bright green lawn. You'll hear from us next in February 2024.