### **MARCH 2023**



#### Dear Readers,

In this months newsletter:

Assuring post-harvest success on vines with Seamungus. Fertiliser deal between Neutrog and Centrex provides fossil-fuel alternative. New research into flavour enhancing microbes. Visitors from the Australian National Botanic Gardens Canberra and Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne to see the progress of Armillaria research. Benefits of GOGO Juice and Seamungus Advanced Biological Formula at Arderns Caravan Park in Myrtleford, Victoria.

If you are interested in more information about Neutrog, please let us know at <u>marketing@neutrog.com.au</u> 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



## Post Harvest Success on Vines with Seamungus Liquid



With the harvest season for 2023 nearing an end, it is now time to think about post-harvest care to prepare and protect the vines for the coming winter season. Many factors effect the yield and long-term health of grapevines which makes late season care essential to ensure healthy crops for the following year.

Adequate water and nutrient levels are vital to maximising carbohydrate production from photosythesis before the grapevines go dormant, making post-harvest irrigation and fertilisation essential.

Seamungus is an ideal addition for all stages of viticulture, but particularly effective during post-harvest care. Seamungus will hold up to 70% of its own weight in moisture - significantly increasing your soils ability to retain water and nutrients - ideal for post-harvest requirements.

If you are interested in adding Seamungus Advanced Biological Formula to your postharvest program, please contact our commercial team.





#### **Application Rates**

Post-harvest, apply Seamungus Liquid at 5 litres per hectare through fertigation.

For general use, apply 10 litres per hectare, diluted to a minimum of 1:100.

Apply monthly or as required, and for the best results, apply in the cool of the day.

Store in a cool place, away from direct sunlight & below 30°C and do not mix with fungicides or bactericides.

Use diluted product within 1 week of dilution.

### **Fertiliser Deal Provides Fossil-Fuel Alternative**

Article originally published in The Advertiser on 2 May, 2023



Phosphate miner Centrex has signed an agreement with Adelaide Hills fertiliser company Neutrog Australia to work together on developing new organic and biological fertiliser products for the broadacre farming market.

Centrex subsidiary Agriflex has signed a memorandum of understanding with Neutrog, and says new products have the potential to increase farmers' soil carbon levels, reduce costs and carbon dioxide intensity while maintaining current production levels.

"Agriflex and Neutrog Australia plan to collaborate to jointly develop, produce and market organic and biological fertiliser products applying phosphate tailings (fines) to create an entirely new market and income stream for Agriflex while further de-risking its Ardmore phosphate rock mine," Centrex said in a statement to the ASX.

The process will combine phosphate-rich rock fines supplied by Centrex with an organic component supplied by Neutrog which "contributes valuable bacteria and fungi and is coated with phosphorus-liberating microbes which will introduce nitrogen and acidity to enhance phosphorus bioavailability."

Centrex managing director Robert Mencel said Agriflex already made direct application phosphate rock products for the pasture industry.

"We are confident we can produce a viable alternative to existing fossil fuel-based nitrogen/phosphorus broadacre fertilisers for farmers and we know there is a substantial appetite for this in the market," Mr Mencel said.

"Neutrog Australia is an industry leader in the research, production, marketing and sales of biological fertilisers and the proposed partnership will benefit from the high quality of Agriflex's phosphate product and its skill and experience (in) operations, engineering, logistics and finance.

Neutrog Australia managing director Angus Irwin said: "For traditional broadacre farmers, a product that combines phosphate rock with organic inputs and active biologicals should provide a very appealing alternative to import and will lessen Australia's reliance on imported chemical fertilisers."



# New Research into Flavour Enhancing Microbes



This is a selective agar media designed to allow the growth, only of specific microbes that are known to enhance flavour.

Microbes that can enhance the flavour of strawberries can be found on the roots, leaves and surface of strawberries and more likely from strawberries grown on farms known to have exceptionally flavoursome fruit.

The leaf from one of these strawberries has been pressed onto a plate, and you can clearly see a series of pink and white-ish colonies. The pattern of these colonies seem to initially indicate that the bacteria are tending to grow in the veins of the leaf surface and less so on the remainder.

These bacteria will now be purified and identified before being tested to see if they do in fact, enhance flavour.

### **Research into Armillaria Continues**



Last month we welcomed a wonderful group of guests to our company lunch for May, including a number of guests who travelled from Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory to be with us on the day.

We were pleased to host Zoe Knapp and Peter Byron from the Australian National Botanic Gardens Canberra, along with Caitlin Gray and Marie Velthoven from the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

This visit provided guests an opportunity to see the progress of research that Neutrog has been carrying out over the past few months into a pathogenic fungus called Armillaria which has been responsible for plant decline and mortality at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

This research has potentially industry-wide applications not only for botanic gardens but more widely throughout horticulture, agriculture, and forestry.

### **GOGO Juice & Seamungus at Aderns Caravan Park**





For the average gardener, turf can be a tricky part of the garden to tackle. For business owners in high traffic industries such as caravan parks, this challenge can be overwhelming unless a suitable year round fertilising program is in place.

Arderns Caravan Park in Myrtleford, Victoria, know this challenge all too well with constant foot traffic, vehicles, caravans and camping set ups impacting the expansive lawn areas significantly, especially during busy holiday periods.

After a stay in early 2022, Neutrog's Commercial Customer Relationship Manager, Julie Walker, introduced Leisa Byrne (Park Owner) to Neutrog products including GOGO Juice and Seamungus Advanced Biological Formula to combat wear and tear on turf areas.

To keep the soil healthy and increase the turfs resistance to pest and disease and withstand or recover from various stressors, GOGO Juice and Seamungus are alternated and applied at least monthly on all turf areas, with Seamungus also being applied to the various gardens.

In 2022, the park was inundated following a local flooding event, prompting Leisa to treat the lawns with GOGO Juice as soon as the water began to recede. "We were aware that the inundation was detrimental to our soil health and worked as quickly as we could to restore soil health by applying GOGO Juice," says Leisa.

The turf bounced back quickly, enabling them to carry on delivering a stellar service for their guests.

"We are always conscious of our guests and any impact soil amendments may have during their stay. Neutrog liquids are odour free, show no residual after application and pose no risk to the pets of our guests."