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Dear Readers,

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If you are interested in more information about Neutrog, please let us know at 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**



Growth at Jonas Wildflowers with Seamungus and GOGO Juice



Jonas Wildflowers have operated in Wartook, Victoria for over five years, growing and sourcing high quality native flowers, fillers, and foliage products to service the Australian wholesale and export cut flower market.

Based over 175 acres, the property itself was a former goat farm which had been leased out to a local flower-farming family in the 1980s. The lease finished in 2010, leaving the farm with no active farm management. This combined with bush fires in 2014 left the farm in a rundown state by the time Jonas Wildflowers took it over in 2019.

“Many sections of the property had been farmed intensely for long periods of time with little or no inputs combined with extensive and regular tillage, meaning the soils were very depleted and tired,” says owner of Jonas Wildflowers, Andrew.

Jonas Wildflowers have remained true to their philosophy which is to work with nature and not against it, resurrecting the health and productivity of the property by improving the health of the soil.

On recommendation from other local growers, biological inputs have been used in place of chemical fertiliser using NeutroG's Seamungus and GOGO Juice to reintroduce a diversity of good microbiology for the soil and plants, and to provide important trace elements that aren't found in chemical products.

A small handful of Seamungus pellets per plant are applied in September and December just before a rain event or prior to watering, with a yearly application of GOGO Juice applied at 5L per hectare.

“Incorporating a regular nutrition program into the farm management has shown great results for our new and existing plantings.”

The switch to biologicals along with weeding, staged pruning, mulching, and watering has seen Jonas Wildflowers maintain a steady yield of 70,000 bunches per year including Acacias, Agonis (*Taxandria parviceps*), Eucalyptus, Geraldton wax, *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, *Leptospermums* and *Thryptomene calycina*.

Their goal is now to increase production to over 200,000 bunches per year.



Gulgong Garlic



Based in the heart of rural Australia, is the brainchild of a passionate horticulturalist whose love for soil and organic farming drove her to establish a garlic farm where her diploma in Organic Farming could be put into practice.

What started as a small scale study has quickly grown over the past decade into a thriving garlic farm spanning half an acre and yielding 50,000 bulbs annually, with a special appreciation for Australian purple turban varieties known for their robust flavour and generous size.

At Gulgong Garlic, the commitment to organic farming extends beyond mere practice — it's a philosophy deeply rooted in every aspect of the operation. Utilising Seamungus and Rapid Raiser, along with regular applications of GOGO Juice, the focus on plant and soil health is paramount. This approach not only ensures robust crops but also fosters a healthy soil microbiology, essential for sustainable agriculture.

"Neutrog have been a game changer here on our farm. We absolutely love using Seamungus and Rapid Raiser throughout the first few months of growing time. We also do foliar sprays of GOGO Juice monthly throughout the season to promote a healthy, diverse soil microbiology and therefore stronger plants.

I think the focus on plant and soil health combined, is what I love and adore most about Neutrog. You just can't have one without the other," says Rachel.



If you would like more information about the applications of these products, please get in touch with a member of our commercial team using the details at the bottom of this newsletter.



Mount Lofty Flavour Trial Demonstrates Improvement in Root Development



Since beginning pot trials at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden to see if the flavour of produce can be influenced with bacteria and fungi from our microbial bank, Neutrog's R&D team have determined that the selected microbes used within the trial do in fact enhance flavour.

Throughout the process however, they have also come across some additional benefits for overall plant health and produce quality, including the most recent data indicating an improvement in root development for those plants treated with the biological formula.

Following blind taste tests of the produce, tomato plants (Mighty Red and Apollo varieties) were removed from their pots to allow our R&D team to inspect the root balls, which were washed to remove the excess soil and dried in a 50C oven to allow them to capture the dry weight.

As you can see in the photos, the difference between the plants that were treated with the biological formula (left) and plants that were left untreated (right) is significant.

"The data we captured for the Mighty Red tomatoes indicate that those treated with the biological formula had an average weight of 39.17g, compared to the control which averaged 9.6g," says David, Research Assistant.

◀ Root balls on the left have been treated with the advanced biological formula. Root balls on the right are untreated.

Flavour Trials Set to Continue at the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility in SA

Due to the success of the flavour trials at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden where it was determined that the selected microbes from our microbial bank do in fact enhance flavour, we now look to continue these trials at the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility (APPF) from August 2024.

The microbes will be trialled with tomato plants, which will then go to a separate sensory research facility to measure the taste differential.



Ahead of the trials, Neutrog's MD Angus Irwin and R&D Manager Dr Uwe took a tour of the facility where they learnt about some fascinating processes that the APPF undertake, including the wheat containers (left) which are placed inside an x-ray CT scanner designed for plant research. This allows researchers to scan the spikes to get a view of the seeds along with grain weight, density, volume and traits.

Two other key parts of the facility include the drought and heat phenotyping platform which consists of controlled environment rooms which have been specially fitted with temperature and humidity control, variable wavelength LED lighting and fully automatic gravimetric platforms with high precision irrigation. This set up allows researchers to conduct experiments with diverse watering protocols and drought scenarios.

On the right is large piece of machinery used for crop measurement.



Neutrog Visits T Muso & Co in Virginia, SA

Last month, Neutrog's Commercial team spent some time in Virginia in South Australia. Virginia is based in the rural outskirts of Adelaide and home to a large number of agricultural and horticultural operations.

Among those is T Muso & Co, owned by John Musolino and his family who have been farming in the Virginia region for three generations. With over 1000 acres of land, their main crops are broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce and onion where Rapid Raiser is used.

John was kind enough to show our Commercial Sales Representative, Luke Wormald and Commercial Manager, Emily Harrison around the site, including their own seedling nursery which has been established to provide plants for themselves and to sell on to other growers.



Neutrog is a Freshcare Recognised Supplier



Freshcare is an Australian-owned and operated company providing internationally recognised assurance standards for the fresh produce and wine grape industries.

Supported by user-friendly resources and training, Freshcare standards help Australian producers demonstrate their capacity to grow, pack, and distribute safe, sustainable, quality produce for customers and consumers worldwide.

As a Recognised Supplier we provide Freshcare Participants in the Australian fresh produce, supply chain and wine industries with a commitment to demonstrate our credentials as part of best business practice.

Soil Biology Courses at Western Sydney University



In 2023 a team from Neutrog attended a four day Soil Biology Masterclass at Western Sydney University. We are pleased to say that the course has returned for 2024, with the option of a 4-day certification course or a 2-day masterclass in partnership with Soil Science Australia.

Facilitated and led by world-leading soil ecologist Professor Brajesh Singh FAA who is accompanied by a range of guest speakers, course participants will learn about harnessing life in soils by true experts in their field.

Participants will gain an understanding of the properties of soils and learn how to adopt practices and strategies to enhance soil health, and use the power of plant-soil-microbial relationships to unlock soil nutrients produce healthier and more nutritious plants and understand how microbes in soils influence soil fertility and drive plant production.

These courses are suitable for people of a variety of backgrounds including proactive and innovative growers across horticultural and agricultural sectors, consultants, advisors, agronomists, scientists and researchers.

[Soil Science Soil Biology
4 Day Certification Course](#)

[Soil Biology Masterclass
2 Days](#)

Contact us

For more information about Neutrog products, please contact our team.

Neutrog products are also suitable for the home garden, and you can find out more by signing up to receive our monthly retail newsletter for stories from gardening experts, product profiles and seasonal fertilising guides for home gardens.

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email marketing@neutrog.com.au



VIC & NSW
Emily Harrison
0448 666 088



SA
Luke Wormald
0448 881 619



WA & QLD
Brian Klepzig
0417 580 817