

feedback

commercial

UPDATE FROM NEUTROG #12

**SUSTAINABLE MALLEE CROPPING
GIVING YOU THE JUICE
HELPING SCHOOLS GET INTO THE GARDEN
JUST TRY IT
GOGO JUICE**



SUSTAINABLE MALLEE CROPPING

Manangatang farmer George White has been farming in the Mallee for 39 years. George's grandfather selected the land in the early 1900's and it is one of the few farms still owned by a descendant of an original selector in the region today. George, his wife Sue and their son Andrew farm over 1600 hectares, growing wheat, barley and rye.



Like most farming families, the Whites applied NPK chemical fertilisers through their generations – applying such products as single, then double super, and eventually MAP. George says “that was simply how it was always done and really the only thing we knew”.

For his part, some 20 years ago, George began to question the validity and sustainability of continuing to apply chemical synthetic fertilisers to his land – he had been noticing a steady decline in the soil fertility and the yields seemed to be slowly diminishing and reducing. At that time he began researching alternatives and whilst organic fertilisers were certainly considered as an option, he was concerned about the lack of available information and when coupled with their low NPK, he saw them as a risk that he could not afford to take.

He did however maintain an interest in exploring alternatives and in the last 5 years George has witnessed a far wider understanding of microbes and the significant role that fungi and bacteria play in the soil. George comments “after three generations of the same NPK fertiliser regime it understandably took me a while to even begin to comprehend how the low NPK within an organic fertiliser could produce the same or better results than that achieved with my traditional synthetic fertilisers”.

After considerable research George used some organic fertiliser in his cropping program. George says “I was still nervous about the yields I would achieve and was pleasantly surprised to find that it performed as well as my traditional fertilisers. I now understand that it is not just about the levels of NPK applied to the soil, and that fungi, bacteria and microbes all play an important part in soil fertility”.

Over the last 5 years George has widened his use of organic fertilisers, applying Neutrog's Rapid Raiser. George says “I have actually reduced my input costs whilst maintaining my yields and if I am able to do this whilst improving my soil fertility at the same time, I have gone a long way toward the sustainability I was seeking 20 years ago”.

This year George is taking it a step further and trialling Neutrog's latest product – a liquid soil “pro-biotic”. This product has basically no NPK and is simply based upon introducing and proliferating the beneficial microbes, bacteria and fungi within the soil, whilst also introducing various growth promotants that have been derived from kelp and seaweed.

After over 20 years of a very planned and researched approach to the way in which he wants to manage his business, the results achieved have given George the confidence to continue along his chosen path.

Just try it.

Neutrog's philosophy is that you can't compare organic based fertilisers against their chemical counterparts utilising conventional NPK methodology alone. The only way to judge the application of an organic fertiliser is to 'Just try it'.

Organic fertilisers not only supply a wide range of nutrients to the soil, but most importantly provide the catalyst for healthy growth by stimulating the natural processes that occur in the soil. They can perform as well as, if not better than their chemical counterparts for the same cost.



George White in the article on this page, reflects a growing number of farmers who by simply starting with a small trial of organic fertiliser

have now changed their traditional chemical NPK mindsets.

If you would like more information about trialling an organic fertiliser speak to a Neutrog representative on Freecall 1800 65 66 44.

GIVING YOU THE JUICE

Brian Cowling and his wife Dawn have been farming for 35 years and have two farms located at Kersbrook and Cromer, in South Australia. Brian is a saddlemaker by trade and is also an ex rodeo and bronco rider.

His farming life is a little less “in the air” than when he was riding all around the country, but still very busy nonetheless. Brian and Dawn breed quarter horses and have 20 brood mares and 2 stallions. The progeny end up going to stockmen, rodeo riders and pleasure riders, right around Australia. The horses are bred at Kersbrook and raised at Cromer.

When the Cromer farm was purchased 7 years ago it was badly run down. Brian says that, “we had the best crop of capeweed you’ve ever seen”. Pasture renovation was badly needed. Dawn and Brian joined their local Landcare group. Assistance was provided for pasture improvement and re-vegetation of the lesser paddocks, with around 30 acres being beautifully re-forested. Over the years Brian has used various liquid products, raw chicken manure as well as chemicals. The results have ranged from good with the liquids, but expensive and inefficient; to not particularly noticeable results with the chemicals.

The catalyst for moving away from chemicals was when Brian noted that the growth in his

pasture seemed stunted, even though it had received high inputs of chemical fertilisers. Soil tests confirmed most unsatisfactory levels of heavy metals. It also happened that one of their clients from interstate sent down a photograph of his sorghum crop. The photo depicted a Range Rover in the sorghum which was so high that it looked like sugar cane. All that had been used on the sorghum was a liquid fertiliser. The photograph prompted questions from Brian which led to him catching up with his local produce store to see what options they had. A purchase of 2 tonne of Rapid Raiser pellets resulted and was applied to the farm. That year Brian cut 160 round bales, a 25% increase on the 120 that were cut the previous year.

A couple of years ago Brian tried GOGO Juice on 2 trays of vegetable seedlings. He was amazed that within 24 hours the plants had doubled in size. The microbes and healthy bacteria in the product made nutrients immediately available to the plants. This impressed Brian so much he knew he needed to trial a much larger area. Two paddocks, side by side were treated. One had

been used for hay and the other had been grazed heavily by sheep. Within a month, the pasture in the sheep paddock had increased from around 2 inches to 12 inches in height and the hay paddock was over 5 feet high, British Racing Green in colour, and so thick it was almost impossible to walk through.

Due to the extremely wet season, they were unable to get onto the paddock to bale, but their contractor estimated bale numbers would easily have been 300 compared to the previous year’s 160.

Brian stated that he’s found GOGO Juice to be of great value. “It is efficient to use through my spray tank, without blocking, and I’m very pleased to know that I’ve introduced beneficial microbes into the soil whilst maximising the benefits of various growth stimulants that have been derived from kelp and seaweed”.

“GOGO Juice will be regularly used on my farm from now onwards and is easily the best product I have ever used... and that’s a direct quote from me!”



GIVE IT A GO!

After almost 10 years of development GOGO Juice is now available to the commercial market.

GOGO Juice is teeming with beneficial microbiology and is essentially a pro-biotic for your soil and plants.

GOGO Juice combines the "catalytic" power of billions of beneficial bacteria with the well documented benefits of applying kelp, seaweed, fish and humic acid.

The carefully selected microbes have been proliferated utilising complex carbohydrates and sugars through a unique aerobic brewing system in which kelp, seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure have been digested by the beneficial bacteria.

The resultant product provides your soil and

plants with a huge boost of the living microbiology necessary for them to perform at their optimum level, increasing their ability to resist pest and disease and to withstand heat and frost stress.

GOGO Juice has already been used in a wide range of applications including AAMI Stadium, the cricket grounds at Adelaide University and the grounds at Flemington racecourse, as well as many vegetable growers and broadacre farmers trialling it on their properties.

GOGO Juice is not a replacement for existing fertilisers, it's a product designed to complement and enhance them.

For more information about GOGO Juice contact a Neutrog representative.



HELPING SCHOOLS GET INTO THE GARDEN



Angus Irwin, Managing Director, Neutrog and Stephanie Alexander with students from Bridgewater Primary School, SA

Neutrog has recently formed a partnership with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, developing an organic fruit and vegetable fertiliser to support the Foundation's Kitchen Garden Program.

The Kitchen Garden Program operates within schools, providing pleasurable food education to primary school children and giving them hands-on experience in growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing their own fresh, organic food.

Rocket Fuel, the newest addition to the Neutrog product range, has been specifically developed for the home garden market for growing healthy organic fruit and vegetables.

Rocket Fuel will be supplied free of charge to primary schools participating in the

Foundation's Kitchen Garden Program with a percentage of retail sales furthering the Program nationally.

So if you have fruit and vegetables in your garden, give them the blast they need with new Rocket Fuel and at the same time support the gardening and food education of thousands of school children around Australia through the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.



Join Neutrog's Pooh Bah Club



If you would like to be kept updated on Neutrog news, new products, offers and other information you can do so by becoming a member of our Pooh Bah Club.

Membership is free, communication is generally via email and you are able to unsubscribe at any time.

You can join via the Neutrog website www.neutrog.com.au.

BUSINESS AWARDS



2010 South Australian Winner & National Finalist

- AMP Innovation Award
- Sensis Social Responsibility Award 2010 South Australian Finalist
- Panasonic Australia Medium Business Award



For quick updates on what's happening at Neutrog and to also see what other Neutrog followers are doing in their gardens become a fan of Neutrog on Facebook.

Look for the Facebook link on our website, click the 'like' button and you're in.

