

# OCTOBER NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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*This month, for our marine keepers, we are offering, on special, the stunning Mandarin Fish – known both as Green Mandarin and Psychedelic Mandarin. It is hard to imagine a more complex combination of colour and pattern on a fish. The Black Neon Tetras, also on special, will be a great addition to the freshwater tropical community tank also. Bacopa is always a popular background plant and this month is your chance to stock up at a good price and freshen up your tank for summer.*

*When next in store, take a look at our new little setup featuring freshwater crabs. This is suitable for beginner aquarists or the more experienced looking for something different.*

*With new internal filters, a novel way to attach tank backgrounds, new additives and foods, we hope you will find something of interest.*

*Until next month ... good fishkeeping.*

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[nielsensmarinemates@bigpond.com](mailto:nielsensmarinemates@bigpond.com)

**Check out our Facebook page which is regularly updated with photos of new livestock and products.**  
**'Like us' to receive notification of updates.**



**SPECIALS IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER UNLESS SOONER SOLD OUT.**

## MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH – GREEN MANDARIN FISH



These are, without doubt, one of the most beautifully coloured and bizarrely patterned marine fish. A member of the dragonet family, Mandarin fish will usually grow to a maximum of 10cm, usually less, and are a substrate dweller. Males can be differentiated from the females by the extended first dorsal ray and they have been known to spawn in captivity.

Mandarin fish can be difficult feeders at first and are best started off on fine particle frozen foods or live brine shrimp. They do well in reef tanks where there is probably abundant microscopic live food available to them.

These are a peaceful species, although males will sometimes fight, especially in small aquariums.

Whilst they are popularly kept in reef tanks, they can also be mixed in small aquariums with seahorses.

Mandarins are normally \$55.00

**OCTOBER SPECIAL \$49.00**

## KEEPING FRESHWATER CRABS



We have recently set up a small display tank featuring these fascinating crustaceans. In nature, freshwater crabs come from inland rivers and billabongs in northern Australia

that dry up in winter. During that time, the crabs burrow deep into the sand waiting for the next rainy season. These freshwater crabs grow to a maximum of 6cm and enjoy a temperature range of 18 – 25 degrees Celsius and a pH of 7.0 – 7.5. Crabs do not live for long in very acid

water so regular water changes will be required to correct



this and dilute nitrites and nitrates. A quality neutralizer should also be used to remove ammonia, chlorine, and chloramines. Be sure to use no medications containing copper as this is very toxic to crabs.

As true scavengers, crabs are not fussy feeders and will readily feed on sinking pellets.

By nature, freshwater crabs are amphibious and therefore should be provided with an 'island' where they can leave the water. Driftwood or a large rock protruding from the water is a simple solution.

To simplify setting up a freshwater crab aquarium we now have the following setup available. This includes a 25 litre aquarium with light and filter, gravel, driftwood, food, neutralizer and two freshwater crabs for a total price of \$185.00.

## HIKARI CRAB CUISINE

This uniquely balanced formulation offers necessary nutrients that promote proper shell development. A rapidly sinking stick which allows most bottom feeding scavengers ready access and extended feeding. Naturally offers higher levels of colour enhancers which help develop true coloration. Recommended for crabs, crayfish, shrimp, lobsters, tadpoles and other scavengers in both fresh and saltwater environments plus land hermit crabs.



## HIKARI SHRIMP CUISINE

Contains vegetable matter herbivorous shrimp prefer, especially seaweed and spirulina. The carefully selected ingredient mix with added vitamins, minerals and other trace nutrients offers those fundamental to proper shedding. Recommended for all types of freshwater ornamental shrimps.



## FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH – BLACK NEON TETRAS



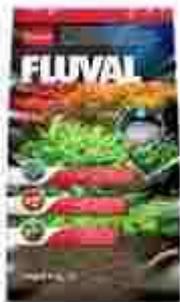
Although not as flashy as their Neon Tetra cousins, Black Neons are a lovely fish in their own

right and contrast beautifully with many other fish, particularly other tetras such as neons, cardinals, glowlights and more. These black and silver fish with an iridescent pale blue stripe are a very peaceful fish and do well when mixed with other small to medium fish. They love a planted tank and probably show best colour when in one. As with all tetras they prefer to be kept in a school and will be much more outgoing and visible when this is done.

Normally \$5.30 each

**NOW \$3.99**

## NEW FROM FLUVAL – PLANT & SHRIMP STRATUM



Collected from the mineral-rich foothills of Mount Aso Volcano in Japan, Fluval Stratum makes an ideal alternative substrate for planted aquariums and those featuring shrimp. This

substrate encourages strong plant growth - roots easily penetrate and spread throughout substrate to obtain key nutrients and the porous structure allows for rapid colonization of beneficial nitrifying bacteria. Stratum helps support neutral to slightly acidic pH - ideal for most plants, tropical fish and shrimp normally kept in planted aquariums and provides newborn shrimp with a refuge from predators until they are large enough to emerge. Stratum will not discolour water and helps control organic discoloration when natural driftwood is present.

For use in freshwater aquariums  
Recommended depth: 3-4 CM

## NEW FROM ULTIMATE AQUACARE

### BIO-ENHANCE.

Reef Essential Bio-Enhance is designed to provide protein, amino acids, fatty acids, carbohydrates & vitamins for enhancing both tissue growth and vitality in corals. Five separate products have been

combined into an all-in-one complete nutrition supplement suited for SPS, LPS and mixed reef aquariums. Laboratory tests showed



that the product performed well, however, trialling on enthusiast's aquariums showed some amazing results. Enthusiasts claimed that the product could bring life back to damaged coral, significantly increase growth, enhance colouration and cause swelling.

This product does not require refrigeration and should not be combined with similar products. It should be added to high water flow and must be used with a protein skimmer in reef aquariums. It is suitable for use with a dosing pump.

### V14 NITRATE REMOVER

This product does not replace their existing Nitrate Remover but is designed for use by experienced aquarists for marine aquariums with nitrate levels below 20ppm. V14 Nitrate Remover is designed specifically to supercharge nitrate removal without promoting the nuisance bio-bacteria slime within marine/reef aquariums. An important warning is the fact that natural denitrification via bacteria produces carbon dioxide which lowers pH, as a result we suggest dosing smaller amounts more often to help reduce the possibility of a pH drop. This product must be used in aquariums with a protein skimmer, in Marine/Reef aquariums, NOT freshwater aquariums. . If using in a fish only aquarium we recommend keeping your water well aerated. We recommend you dose according to the instructions and most importantly **DO NOT OVERDOSE**. If nitrates are above 20ppm, the original Nitrate Remover should be used.



## NOW IN STOCK – FLUVAL U2, U3, U4 INTERNAL FILTERS

Three models of the ever-reliable Fluval internal filters are now available. Each model has three-way flow control and adjustable output and are fitted with a poly carbon pad, foam filter and bio max noodles covering both mechanical and biological filtration. Great for the freshwater aquarium.

**U2** measures 218h x 130w x 95d and is recommended for tanks up to 110 litres. \$81.99.

**U3** measures 290h x 125w x 115d and is recommended for tanks up to 150 litres. \$98.50



**U4** measures 352h x 130w x 115d and is recommended for tanks up to 240 litres. \$126.50.

## FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH – BACOPA



Bacopa is a tall growing background plant with lime green leaves and a pinkish green underside. As it grows from cuttings it is fairly easy to propagate. This plant needs good lighting to grow well and regular feedings of aquatic liquid plant fertilizer. Dosing the tank with Co<sub>2</sub> will also enhance growth. As with all cutting plants, Bacopa comes done up in bunches and can be planted as is or alternatively it can be separated out into individual pieces. Regularly \$6.99 per bunch. **THIS MONTH \$5.99**

## SEAVIEW GEL – A GREAT WAY TO ATTACH A BACKGROUND



This is a gel which is applied to an aquarium background and allows adhesion without the use of tapes. Trapped air bubbles can be removed using a credit card or ruler and because the background will cling to the glass and leave no gap, the image will appear brighter and clearer than when using tape and will be visible from any angle. \$11.50.

Visit [www.seaviewinfo.com](http://www.seaviewinfo.com) for instructions on applying Seaview and watch the video to see the effects possible.

