STRI Statement on Slow Release Fertilizers

The Sports Turf Research Institute have issued a statement of their awareness of increasing concern among the turf managers that a number of slow release fertilizer products on the market do not indicate the proportion (percentage) of nitrogen which is in the slow release form. In IBDU containing products the IBDU-nitrogen may make up anything from about 20 to 90 per cent of the total. They say it is evident that the slow content IBDU products will have relatively poor slow release characteristics. These low percentages of slow release compounds in fertilizers create problems with bodies such as Local Authorities and Golf Clubs who invite tenders for their annual fertilizer needs.

Obviously, fertilizers with low percentages of IBDU present will be sold at lower prices and therefore competitive tenders go to the lowest bid price, and this could mean that the product has very little slow release compound present in the fertilizer.

Dr. Peter Hayes, Director of STRI, states that, "In order to both inform turf managers, groundsmen and greenkeepers and to ensure their confidence in the products, manufacturers should clearly show the percentage of total nitrogen which is of the slow release type".

Commenting on the STRI statement, John Hinton, the Amenity Products Manager for BASF based at Ipswich told Golf Greenkeeping. "As manufacturers of high quality, high performance products with a sound technical base, we welcome the comments by Dr. Hayes. The Floranid range has been formulated around our own IBDU production and we have always openly declared on every bag, the slow release nitrogen content. The Floranid range represents value for money and customers should be able to see that, even before they use the product."

Hampton Expansion

Rofey Bros. Ltd. have appointed Peter Hampton as their agent in the Wiltshire, Avon, Oxford, Gloucester and South Wales areas.

Peter has established his own business with golf clubs, public authorities and other professional users, providing a range of grass machinery and sundries, since going solo two years ago.

The marketing agreement with Rofey Bros. Ltd. will enable Peter to provide an expanded range of goods and services, particularly the range of R B L Sportsturf Dressing, including the unique R B L Xyloorganic. He will also be supplying products from leading manufacturers, such as Vitax, May & Baker, Synchemicals and Johnsons Seeds.

Horticultural Wages

Recent statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food give the average total weekly earnings for horticultural workers over the last year (June 1986 to June 1987) as £127.71 for a 43.6 hour week.

General farm workers average a similar rate per hour but a longer working week (over 46 hours) gives rise to higher total average earnings.

Comparing the April to June quarter for 1986 and 1987 shows a slight rise in the average hourly wage for horticultural workers, but as the length of the average working week has fallen by nearly three hours, so too has average weekly earnings.

North Hants Golf Club buy four Jacobsen mowers

Head Greenkeeper Alan Shaw at the North Hants Golf Club at Fleet jumps for joy over the four Jacobsen pedestrian mowers delivered to his club this month.

Alan has decided to buy walk behind Jacobsen mowers, because he believes the nine blade reel with a height of cut adjustment from 7/16ths to 3/32nds will give a finer finish to the greens for tournament play.

The precision 22" mower is driven by a 4hp petrol engine and is the only 2 cycle engine available for a pedestrian mower.

Within the next month, the successful 'Turf Groomer' already available with the diesel Greens King, will arrive in Britain as an optional extra.

Other accessories that can be supplied for fitting on the pedestrian mower include a grooved roller and a spring tooth comb to give deeper grass penetration for fine cut, thatch removal and control of graining.

Two rollers are also available, a solid front roller include a three section roller to cope with moisture conditions. Two brushes, one a thick bristle can be attached to the front of the grass box to pick up matted growth and a fine bristle lifts runners and controls graining condition.

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New ICI Chemical Application Record Book

I.C.I. are continuing to help their customers understand and implement the various aspects of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the control of Pesticide Regulation 1986.

An important part of the legislation, which has been overlooked by many people, is the requirement to make records of all pesticide applications and to keep such records for a minimum of three years.

To help greenkeepers, groundsmen and contractors, I.C.I. have produced a superb Chemical Application Record Book. The use of this book will ensure that all aspects relating to the use of a pesticide will be recorded as prescribed in the Draft Code of Practice on the Agricultural and Horticultural Use of Pesticides.

Free copies of this book, which normally costs £1.25, may be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope (min. size 10" x 7") to the address below:

Imperial Chemical Industries
Professional Products, Dept. CARB, P.O. Box 85,
Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB

NEWS 1 NEWS 2 NEWS 3 NEWS 4 NEWS 5
Bill Fisher leaves Polymark Beaver

Bill Fisher, formerly the UK Sales Manager with Polymark Beaver has left the company to set up his own business in the distribution of turf care equipment. Based at Woking, Surrey, the new firm named Golf and Turf Care Equipment Ltd, has obtained premises in Westfield Road. Joining Bill in the new venture are Gordon White, previously the Southern territory manager for Beaver, Bill Bocking and Graham Beaver, previously in the role of Service Manager. Graham held a similar position with Brown's of Chesham.

A number of major manufacturers have already tied up with this new enterprise including, Seward of York, Iseki Tractors and Polymark Beaver. Beaver has left the company to form the fold. A revised leaflet on First Aid at Work has also been published. This gives general information on first aid priorities such as what to do for burns and scalds, eye injuries, electric shock and gassing. The leaflet is illustrated with photographs of methods of resuscitation. It has been issued for inclusion in first aid boxes.

Trevor Martin in 'Penguin Hand'

Fertiliser specialist Vitax Limited has just completed its second major export order to the Falkland Islands: the Manybranch Farm and Nurseries at Port Howard, West Falklands, has already purchased the full range of Vitax retail products, including Q4, Garden Lime, Claybreaker, Tomato Feed, Cucumber Feed, Conifer & Shrub fertiliser, Potting Base and Seed Base. The second order was for the 'Northern' professional Grower Range and included GR organic-based fertilisers, VN controlled-release fertilisers, and new Organics.

It is just over a year since Managing Director Trevor Martin led a management buy-out of Vitax from the giant Steetley organisation and in that time he has built-up profitable export markets in Europe, Israel and Australia.
Massive Fund Raising Promotion by the National Turf Council

The National Turfgrass Council headed by their Chairman, Howard Swan, Managing Director of Golf Landscapes used the Windsor event to launch a scheme to raise an initial £23,000 from manufacturers and suppliers within the industry to fund the appointment of a full-time secretariat and pursue a progressive development strategy aimed at the furtherance of research, education and communication.

The meeting attended by almost everyone of the leading lights of the industry was sponsored by ICI. Keith Clevely, ICI's Professional Products Marketing Manager said he saw this opportunity to bring together the most influential people in turf culture as a chance not to be missed. His company fully supported the present aims and objectives of the NTC.

So was founded in October 1980 The National Turfgrass Council, a body representing the differing parts of the industry, from research to leisure management, from local authorities to landscapers, from groundsmen to greenkeepers. Also represented is the Sports Council, Countryside Commission and colleges together with trade associations whose members supply the industry with seeds, irrigation systems, chemicals, fertilizers, lawn mowers and contracting services. Essentially the objectives of the Council were five fold:

1. To provide a forum for discussion by all of matters relevant to turfgrass.
2. To represent the industry's views to government.
3. To encourage the exchange of ideas and information within the industry and to communicate through publications and meetings.
4. To develop education and training.
5. To encourage turfgrass research.

The Council with limited resources, both people and financial have been active in pursuing all the original objectives over the past six years, and have achieved some successes.

PEOPLE SKILLS
A BTEC Diploma in turf management has been developed with agricultural colleges. All this and more has been achieved through unpaid volunteers operating within modest budgets without any outside financial assistance.

The way forward can no longer be fragmented if standards are to be improved in education, training, status and the financial rewards for those whose responsibility it will be to provide and maintain the increased facilities.

INDUSTRY STATISTICS
Reviews have been published on artificial surfaces, the current state of turf grass research and statistics on existing trends for the industry.

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Sheffield S8 8LL

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Joint NTC/NAAC Workshop at Stoneleigh

Thursday, 12th November, 1987

Since the last amenity pesticides workshop a year ago, the National Turfgrass Council has been working, with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to prepare a code of practice specifically for the amenity sector. The workshop at Stoneleigh on Thursday, 12th November, 1987 is mainly to introduce the new code. Speakers will explain how it would be applied in various situations, what is included, and what is not.

There will also be a chance to get up-to-date on operator training and certificates of competence, with a speaker from the ATB, and Phillip Sheppy of the NTPC to review and explain the ATB, and Phillip Sheppy of the NTPC to review and explain the ATB.

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Deere appoints ground care dealer in Surrey

Increasing its national marketing and service network for its wide range of Lawn and Garden tractors for commercial, Local Authority and public consumer use, JOHN DEERE LIMITED of Nottingham, the world's largest manufacturer of Ground Care Equipment, announce the appointment of Golf & Turf Equipment Limited, 99 Westfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 90P.

Greenkeepers take new jobs

David Wilkinson, Selby's greenkeeper for the past seven years has been appointed Course Manager at the privately owned Shaw Hill Club at Chorley, Lancashire. The Selby club recently lost their professional, the well-known tournament player David Jagger, who has joined Hui G.C.

David leaves the inland 'Yorkshire links' in fine fettle, where, by an intensive programme of deep slitting on his sand based fairways, he has improved the grass growth enormously.

Selby, near York, has a reputation for its all year round playability and recent extensions to the club-house and locker rooms make it a perfect venue for a day's golf.

Yorkshire's top heathland course, Alwoodley, Leeds, have appointed Phil Taylor, Head Greenkeeper at the York G.C. to succeed Hughie Marshall when he retires at the beginning of 1988. Hughie has recently moved to a house at Harwood and is now a neighbour of the Queen's cousin. His son Peter is also well-known in the turf trade as a representative for Pattissons.

Mick Bryant from Heworth, another York course, is going further afield. He has accepted a greenkeepers position in France.

At Scarcroft, following extensive interviewing, Jeffrey Mawson's job has gone to his first assistant 23 year old Graham Oxley. Graham, an apprentice with Jeffrey, is yet another in the long line of trainees who have obtained top jobs as a result of the excellent tuition all young greenkeepers have received at Scarcroft.

Martin Muir (30) has been appointed Sales Liaison Manager for fertiliser specialists Vitax Limited. Mr. Muir, who lives at Penbury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, joined Vitax in January 1985 as Sales Executive for South-East England.