

# NEWS ROUND-UP

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

## 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".

NEWS 1



## Hampton Expansion

Roffey 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 Roffey 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 Xylorganic. He will also be supplying products from leading manufacturers, such as Vitax, May & Baker, Synchemicals and Johnsons Seeds.

NEWS 2

## 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.

NEWS 3

## 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 for normal use or 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.

NEWS 5

## 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

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