

## Twenty-Five Years Of Top Dressing

Fendress is part of a fine range of topdressing mixtures supplied by Banks Horticultural Products of Market Harborough, which recently celebrated its silver jubilee.

"Our business was started by my late father in 1961," managing director Tim Banks said. "The prime objective was the extraction of sedge peat in bulk for the Nature Conservancy Council to create a mere. Our source of peat then was just outside Peterborough at Holme Fen and this is where the original extraction took place. Some 25 acres of this has now been filled with water and is now a nature reserve.

"In the early 1960s we went to golf clubs, landscape contractors and local authorities to find a market for the sedge peat. We also had the overburden of the peat available and were looking around for the best use to be made of it. This is how we formed the idea of incorporating it in an organic-based topdressing in the late 1970s. We have been using the peat soil ever since for this operation.

"The sedge peat side has gone from strength to strength and we now market other peats and products as well. Turfculture sales form a large part of our business, so we have added to this a new range of Fendress that uses peat

soil from another part of the country. The registered trade mark for our fen turf dressing is 'Fendress,' which is a protected name."

I asked Tim Banks which was the most popular topdressing they supplied to golf courses. "Fendress without doubt," he replied. "We have a standard mix of 70/30, but this can be adjusted to suit individual clubs needs as desired. The difference between Fendress and many other topdressings is that we use a soil extremely low in clay and silt fractions, which makes it ideal for application to golf greens."

Banks can supply a loam-based dressing, the formula of which (loam, sand, peat) can be tailored to suit any particular requirement at no additional cost to the customer. All their mixtures are also available in 25 kilo sacks. "Most of our deliveries are made in bulk, which is the most economical way, so this allows us to deliver to the most distant parts of the country at very competitive prices," Tim added.

The sedge or fen peat is a rich

black peat from the company's exclusive deposits in East Anglia and it is ideal for golf and bowling greens, especially when it has been finely screened and blended with the company's selected grade of sand and soil to make a superior topdressing mixture that is easily absorbed by fine turf.

When used on a regular basis in conjunction with other sound turf-culture practices, these dressings will produce a smooth resilient surface.

"I am grateful to the many customers who have supported us over the past 25 years," Tim said. "We are a small family firm and know most of our customers personally. My wife Anne helps in the office and keeps the accounts.

"The list and number of clubs we supply with peat and/or topdressing is impressive and widespread, from St Andrews in Fife to Yelverton in Devon, Clondeboy in Northern Ireland to Royal St George's in Kent. We are also able to supply lime free sands in a choice of colours, yellow or white." **John Campbell**

Efficient transportation has contributed to the company's success story.



*Banks Horticultural Products*

## "FENDRESS"®

THE TRULY NATIONAL TURF DRESSING AS SUPPLIED TO MANY CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES

A Superior Top Dressing, using soils with a low clay and silt content, carefully blended with Fenland Peat and Lime Free Silica Sand, shredded and sieved. Ready for immediate application to golf/bowling greens.

Save purchasing expensive equipment, which stands idle for much of the year. Also high labour costs and problems of finding suitable ingredients of constant quality.

**BULK DELIVERIES TO ALL PARTS OF THE UK IN 10, 15, 20, 25 TONNE LOADS. CUSTOMERS IN BELFAST, ABERDEEN, PLYMOUTH, EAST ANGLIA, ETC.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER, THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE FENDRESS, WHICH IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK. BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.**

*Pre-Packed supplies available. Special mixes to your specification prepared. Also, Screened Sedge Peat ("Fenpeat") in bulk. Lime Free Sands, White or Yellow. Screened Loam, etc.*

*Please telephone T.J. Banks for quotations. You will be surprised by our competitive prices.*



Contact: Fen Turf Dressings Ltd., 36 High Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NL. Tel: Market Harborough (0858) 64346.