A consortium involving some of the most influential names in the sports and amenity turfgrass and landscape market has been formed with the objective of holding a national series of regional turf-care workshop seminars throughout the UK later this year. The companies include ICI, SISIS, TORO, Lely, SAI and Farmura. Each workshop will include practical demonstrations of machinery, as well as formal lectures from experts, such as the STRI. Each workshop will be chaired by Howard Swan, chairman of the National Turfgrass Council.

Keith Cleverly, ICI's professional products business manager, said: “This concept has brought together a group of non-competing major suppliers under the common theme of education through communication. It is right that they should be the leaders in this instance, a lead that will surely be followed by others in future.”

Further details of the turfcare workshops, including dates and venues, will be announced in Greenkeeper.

The Health and Safety Executive has published a free leaflet explaining how the Health and Safety at Work Act is put into practice. Working To Make Work Safer is an introduction to the Health and Safety Executive and Commission and fulfills the need for a basic guide to its organization and functions. The leaflet describes those who are affected and outlines the legal requirements of the act.

HSE’s national network of area offices is staffed by inspectors who visit and review work activities. They give advice and guidance and, when necessary, issue enforcement notices and prosecute. The inspectorates’ duties and responsibilities are outlined briefly.

All area offices and information points are listed in the leaflet. Working To Make Work Safer is available from HSE enquiry points at London (01-221 0870); Bootle (051-951 4381) and Sheffield (0742 752539).

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The Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture poses the question: Spraying - Are You Legal?

Legislation introduced last October states that pesticide users must have 'received adequate instruction and guidance in the safe, efficient and humane use of pesticides' and be 'competent for the duties which they are called upon to perform.' Cannington College can provide this instruction and prepare operators for NPTC certificates of competence.

Further information from Miss E. Savigear, Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Cannington, Bridgewater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Tel: 0278 652226.

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