New Farm Trials Endorse Hormones For Denser Sward

Farmers are just proving scientifically what leading greenkeepers have known for years - that natural plant hormones, applied to grass, can improve the quality of the sward and enable grass to respond more generously to routine care treatments.

The technique has long been proven on cereals, but the growing importance of grass in the costings of feedstuffs has prompted a more careful look at the extension of established hormone treatment to the grass crop and some of the figures quoted from trials make compelling reading for anyone engaged in the management of grass.

Trials carried out for Seamac Agricultural by specialist grassland farmers bear the wisdom of what many greenkeepers already practise, based on experience and instinct. And a research programme promises fuller information, which will enable Seamac 600 natural hormone extract to be used with even greater precision and benefit on golf courses. More trials, to be independently monitored and assessed, are in the programme for this year.

In the meantime, it is worth noting that on one farm where observations were carried out with grass grown especially for a drying plant (which was, therefore, managed and measured more closely than is customary on a normal livestock farm), reports spoke enthusiastically of increased tillering and a noticeably heavier 'bottom' to the sward.

The trials were extensive enough to be significant - ten acres treated with Seamac 600 compared with ten adjacent acres untreated.

The management of such grassland has certain parallels with golf course turf, since it involves a series of repeated cuts through the season, with quick recovery needed so that cuts may follow each other as quickly as possible. All the signs pointed unmistakably to the effect of Seamac 600 stimulating tillering, giving a denser sward from a vigorous root system.

Greenkeepers who already use Seamac 600 will know it is a wholly natural, non-toxic product that is environmentally safe and can be used on turf in constant use. The reinforcement of the grass's own natural hormone resources increases photosynthesis, stimulates more tillers and enables the plant to resist drought. The resultant thicker sward stands up better to traffic.

It is emphasised, by the manufacturer and greenkeeper users, that Seamac 600 does not call for any change of existing basic turf technique. Applied by sprayer at any time during the year, it is absorbed through the leaves and works by regulating the natural growth processes of the grass, thus actually enhancing the effect of whatever routine treatments the greenkeeper normally practises.

New Hydraulic Cylinder Mower From Green's

Green's has introduced to its range a triple gang hydraulic cylinder mower for use on smaller compact tractors from 16 din upwards.

Called the triple Bantam, this mower is mounted on the tractor three-point linkage and driven by a tandem pump on thepto, giving an 84in cut.

Each gang unit is independently controlled for cut, lap and lift and a mechanical safety cut-out is incorporated to prevent each cylinder running when lifted.

The outer gangs can be lifted while the gangs on the ground continue to cut, allowing manoeuvrability round trees, benches, etc. Cylinders are 7½in diameter and are available with five or eight blades. The Bantam is priced at £3,340 (plus VAT) with five blades and £3,409 (plus VAT) with eight blades, including a one-year commercial warranty and free delivery.

Green's machinery is distributed in the UK by Claymore Grass Machinery, Fergus Square, Arbroath, Angus (Tel: 0241 73841) and 37 Dulverton Road, Witton, Birmingham (Tel: 021-326 7171).
One Success Leads To Another

After the launch last September of specially formulated water-soluble back-lapping compound, Charterhouse Turf Machinery received many requests from users to provide a simple means of revolving a mower cylinder backwards at low revolutions.

To meet this demand, Charterhouse Turf Machinery has designed the Charterhouse Easy-Lap back-lapping machine. Adjustments for different size cylinders are by means of a hand-wounded screw thread, between 0-150mm.

Power comes from a heavy-duty electric motor, fan-air cooled and fully insulated, driving a bevel gear reduction gearbox with dual output for fitting to both left and right handed cylinders via a universal coupling. The motor is fully shielded and weatherproof.

The combination of a back-lapping machine and compound will leave mowers sharp in minutes and regular use will reduce the need for regrinding. Easy-Lap is available with either a single phase or three-phase motor and costs £480 (excluding VAT).

Full details of the Charterhouse Easy-Lap back-lapping machine and back-lapping compound can be obtained from Charterhouse Turf Machinery (Sales), Pink’s Yard, Church Road, Milford, Surrey GU8 5JD. Tel: 04868 24411.

Using Pesticides Safely

Practical advice on how to use pesticides safely is given in three free leaflets published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Carl Boswell, chief agricultural inspector, said: “Crop spraying can be a risky business. It is essential that operators know how to protect themselves and how to keep pesticides on target crops, where they belong.”

Last year, the HSE’s agricultural inspectorate issued 114 notices requiring action to be taken in the safe use of pesticides. Nineteen people were prosecuted and fines totalling almost £6,000 imposed by the courts.

Training In The Use Of Pesticides lists organisations providing courses for spray operators. Protective Clothing For Use With Pesticides stresses that different chemicals and operations need different protection. It gives advice on choosing and using protective clothing including face shields, coveralls, gloves and boots. Crop Spraying is a revised leaflet updating advice on precautions with pesticides and includes a handy reference chart.

All the leaflets, plus a free wallchart, are available from HSE public enquiry points in Sheffield (on 0742 752539), Bootle (on 051-951 4381) and London (on 01-221 0416/0870).

Toro Reshapes UK Network

Toro Irrigation has announced a major restructuring of its dealer network. Toro representation is now shared by three regional distributors which, between them, will be responsible for all irrigation markets in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The distributors are Turf Irrigation Services of Sandbach, Cheshire, Golf Landscapes of Brentwood, Essex and Irrigation & Slurry Services of Dowton, Wiltshire.

Toro dealers include Sports Turf Services, Edinburgh, Stewarts Construction of Paisley, Par Four of Ripon, Smiths of Grimsby and the Jersey Farmers Trading Union.

Peter Roberts, general manager of Toro Irrigation, said: “We have centralised operations on these three main dealers because of their deep involvement, length of experience, consolidated knowledge and success in the fine turf and sports irrigation markets.”

Contact Peter Roberts at Toro Irrigation, Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SD. Tel: 04254 6261.

Tee Alternative

Firstee – an all-weather tee from Chipman – is a 12sq ft silica sand filled artificial grass carpet. Because of its porous nature, it always provides a good teeing surface.

There’s ample room to vary tee-off positions and, being level with the existing tee, it eliminates that uncomfortable feeling of stepping up or on to an artificially prepared surface.

Greenstaff have found Firstee ideal for tree-shrouded tees where it is almost impossible to keep a good grass covering. Installation is simple and maintenance comprises an occasional brush over and top-up with sand.

Chipman is marketing Firstee not as a winter substitute, but an all-year-round alternative to turf. Further information from Chipman on 0403 60341.
In the battle to maintain fine grassed areas, there is no better weapon than a GREEN'S mower. Every machine is built to cut in even the worst conditions and built to last.

Every machine is designed for minimum maintenance and when that seasonal maintenance is required our watchword is accessibility.

When a spare part is needed our central stores pride themselves on being able to deliver that part within 24 hours (often for machines much older than their operators!).

We can help make your task easier, and more cost effective. Call us for information and advice, and the address of your nearest stockist.

Distributed in England by Claymore Grass Machinery.
Tel. 021 326 7171
People, Places, Products

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) has been awarded contracts for the construction of a nine-hole course at Charterhouse Public School and nine holes at Moors Valley Country Park for Wimborne council. The company is actively involved in negotiations for a further six golf courses.

- Parkers have been appointed distributors for Surrey, London and south of the Thames for Suzuki two-stroke and four-stroke general-purpose industrial engines – from 3.5hp upwards – portable generators and water pumps.
  Further information from T Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7NF. Tel: 01-377 7791.

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club aims to establish a golf museum at St Andrews. To be known as The British Golf Museum, it will be housed in a separate building to the clubhouse and open to the public.

The club already possesses many items of golfing memorabilia, which will be made available to the museum but, when it is felt the project has reached an appropriate stage, the R & A will also be pleased to hear from anyone who has any objects of interest, such as clubs, golf balls, books, films, trophies and paintings.

A museum panel has been formed under the chairmanship of Sir Alistair Denny, who has received advice from the curators of the lawn tennis museum at Wimbledon and the cricket museum at Lord’s.

- Lolode Trailers, the lightweight division of King Trailers, recently fulfilled an order for 22 five-tonne capacity, on-site tipping trailers for the Volta Region African Development Project.
  The pto operated tippers, designed for use with agricultural tractor units, feature 2ft steel dropsides and are fitted with a single axle. They were despatched in kit form.
  Further details on the trailers can be obtained from King Trailers, Riverside, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PX. Tel: 0858 67361.

St Andrews could have a new championship golf course, together with a hotel and leisure complex, if planning permission is granted for a £5m development scheme. The site for the Craigie Hill project is 107 hectares a few miles north-west of St Andrews at Leuchars.

The 100 bedroom hotel will include restaurants, bars, clubrooms and a swimming pool. The adjoining sports complex is intended to provide outdoor tennis courts and indoor facilities, including squash, curling, tennis, fitness rooms and saunas. Should outline planning permission be granted, outside funding will be sought for the golf course, which may be floated as a public company.
Backed by over 20 years practical experience, Turf Irrigation Services offer a wealth of professional knowledge few other companies can match. Tees and greens, fairway watering or perhaps a complete overhaul or extension of your present irrigation system – a word with Turf Irrigation Services, the people who design and install to the highest standards, will ensure that your final choice is the right one.

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SOUTHPORT '86

Thirteen hours of sunshine — the top figure of the day — gave the Institute of Groundsmanship's first spring exhibition a bright send off.

The two day sports and leisure exhibition at Southport's Victoria Park (13th and 14th May) also brought a pleased response from many of the 100 + exhibitors.

Visitors were largely buyers or specifiers of goods from sports clubs and associations throughout the North. They included managers, groundsmen, greenkeepers and local authority amenity staff, with a series of student groups from horticultural colleges adding an extra dimension to the show.

The huge success of the Institute's Windsor Exhibition in the autumn, which now has an international reputation, is based on more than 40 years' experience. It means that Southport '86 had a lot to live up to in only its first year.

Attendance at the two-day event was 2290 — 850 on the first day and 1440 on the second — a fine achievement by any standards. Such was the success that over a score of exhibitors have already rebooked for 1987.

The dates for the 1987 Southport sports and leisure exhibition have now been confirmed as 12th-13th May 1987. Open stand spaces will be available at £4.50 square metre and part-covered stands at £12.50 square metre. Space application forms are now available from The Institute of Groundsmanship, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. MK12 5LG

BRIGHT FUTURE

Nigel Beckford whose article "Into The Future" appeared in the May issue of Greenkeeper has joined Golf Landscapes Limited, Specialist golf course constructors, as a trainee site supervisor. He was formerly assistant greenkeeper at Belleairs golf course, Southend-on-Sea, and recently was the recipient of EIGGA's top award as most promising young greenkeeper. He begins his career by working on the Company's new 18 hole public golf course at Canvey Island, currently under construction, but will continue his studies at Norwood Hall, Southall on his day release scheme towards his City & Guilds Phase II in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management.

Golf Landscapes Limited, founding members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, are working not only at Canvey Island, but also at Ilford, Essex and Farnborough, Hampshire on new constructions, and in America, Portugal, Holland and Greece.

NEW LOOK AT RIGBY TAYLOR

Derek Phillips Chairman and majority shareholder of the Bolton based sports turf supply specialists has retired after nearly thirty years with the Company. His place at the helm has been taken by Bernard Hedley formally the financial director who has been with Rigby Taylor since 1950. On taking up his appointment Mr Hedley confirmed that the Company would continue with its policy of innovation and forward thinking to ensure it remains in the forefront of the turf industry especially with its own range of Mascot products.

The Company also announced that they have signed an agreement with John Souter of Stirling to distribute their products throughout Scotland.

Finally Richard Lawrence, Rigby Taylor's Marketing Director has left the Company.

A KIND COMMENT

It was gratifying to see the piece on "First British Golf Sprinklers" appearing in April's edition of the Greenkeeper. However, it wasn't very gratifying to see the picture printed upside down! Perhaps you could publish a comment next month correcting this — otherwise your readers may be forgiven for thinking that our pop-ups are Australian sprinklers rather than British. Eileen Hawthorn — Watermation.

SLITTERS ON SHOW

One of the most impressive exhibits at the IoG's Spring Show at Southport was the new range of trailed slitters from Dabro International. The range is compatible with all makes of tractors, each machine features a built-in depth control mechanism — there is a green slitter, an outfield slitter as well as the core tiner.

The Dabro Green Slitter.
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<th>Moot trefoil</th>
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