**Trade topics**

- The Mark II version of the Turfquake has been announced. Using a large vibrating disc to form and fill a standard sized slit (50mm x 300mm), the Turfquake is able to work where other machines cannot go, claim the makers.

- Developed originally to avoid soil carting need by displacing soil laterally using the powerful integral vibrator, it was also found to work well in normally very difficult conditions. Stones, hard ground, even some rock-types have been successfully slitted without surface disruption. With the ability to cut and fill a slit with a two-layer sand/gravel drainage medium in one pass, wheel damage to turf is kept to a minimum. Most farways, even the largest, would be intensively sand-slitted within one or two days, given the right conditions. Small-bore pipes and cables can also be installed, but with a depth limit of 0.3m. The Turfquake will be on demonstration at Moreton Morrell College, Warwickshire on 17 March at the same time as the STRO seminar on Sportsturf Drainage. Details: 0773 627115.

- An entirely new de-mountable sprayer with 6m boom and 300 or 600 litre capacity tank has been introduced by Hardi Ltd. Known as the 'Eagle', the machine is designed to fit all types of utility vehicles. The mounting system is particularly flexible and allows a point quick attach and de-mount system. It enables the vehicle to be speedily equipped and just as quickly put back into its normal operational mode.

- The Eagle weighs around 200kg (without liquid) and the specification includes hydraulic folding and manual height control for the boom, clean water tank, electric controls, Hardi triple nozzles and hose holder. A hand lance/hose reel is standard. The 'Eagle' will be from £4,030. Details: 0455 238811.

- *Turf Mark*, launched by ICI Professional Products at BTME, is a spray pattern indicator for golf courses and all other areas where it is advisable to mark where spraying has taken place. Available in water soluble sachets or in tablet form, 'Turf Mark', a temporary colourant, disappears in 1-2 days irrespective of pore size, soil structure or weather conditions and will not stain hands, clothing or equipment. This keeps the application of fertiliser (as illustrated), without affecting chemical efficacy.

- Inter Seeds Ltd is the first seed company to announce its special bi-annual assessment and registration to BS 5750 Part II as wholesalers and distributors of seeds, together with the benefit of not mixing thereof. It proves that the management team have developed a quality system which they successfully operate and gives their customers an assurance that Inter Seeds Ltd is a supplier which has opened its doors to the rigorous bi-annual assessment by NQA of that quality system which the Standard demands. The BSI Standard stipulates that all registered companies maintain a detailed manual of procedures for all aspects of customer contact and contract review; of goods handling and inspection and testing; of assessment of their own suppliers and for the handling of complaints.

- Many golf courses now face the problem of compaction and the weight of all machinery has become an important factor when deciding what to purchase. The designers of Hayter's T93 Greensmower, launched at BTME, have taken this into account. This new machine weighs 90kg (200lbs) less than the previous T92 model. A 16hp water-cooled Kubota diesel engine provides power to all drives through a full hydraulic system that includes a closed circuit transmission unit with dynamic braking. The tilting steering column and fully adjustable seat gives all-round operator comfort and helps to reduce fatigue. Mowing units are available with either 7 or 9-bladed, 13cm reels. Height adjustment is from 4.8mm to 19mm and there is a choice of grooved or smooth rollers. The Greens Conditioner has a variable penetration setting down to a depth of 1.3cm below the lowest height of cut. Three vertical thatch removal units are available with operational width of 1.5 metres. These can be set from 0.6cm above ground down to 1.5cm into the turf. One of the big attractions of Hayter's new T93 is its price. Complete with Greens Conditioner it costs nearly £2,000 less than its nearest rival. Details: 0279 723444.

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- Ritefeed Ltd have hit upon a unique marketing idea, an extended credit deal that gives would-be purchasers a chance to sample their fertilisers for upwards of ten months before agreeing to the terms of their 'Free Year Deal'. You tell them how much you use in a year, they tell you how much it will cost and a deal is struck. You buy your fertiliser only from them for the following four years - however, one of these years costs absolutely nothing - the charge is waived. Details from John Walker on 0772 253521.

- Buckinghamshire based machinery dealer Risboro' Turf have obtained registration to BS5750 part II, only the second to achieve this in the county. The registration is the culmination of 18 months hard work.

- Risboro' Turf, top UK Jacobsen dealer in 1990, 1991 and 1992, are major suppliers of equipment to golf clubs in Bucks, Berks, Oxon, Herts and North London and are also main dealers for Hayter-Beaver, Iseki, Lamborghini, BLEC, Honda Gravely and Charterhouse. They have recently started to manufacture their own range of pedestrian and tractor SORREL rollers. Tel 0844 274127.