BTME 96 proves to be Number One Choice

With over eight months to go until the doors open, BTME 96 is well on its way to being the biggest and best yet.

Exhibitors, eager not to miss out, have already snapped up 84% of the available floor space — even with an additional 25% added especially for the 1996 event.

Not only have many new companies booked for next year — including Clifton Special Products, Petroleum Products and Services Ltd and Fairway Credit — many existing exhibitors have reserved larger stands. Lely/Toro, for example, has booked 208 square metres — almost three times bigger than in 1995.

Anyone wishing to reserve space for BTME 96, which takes place between January 24-26 at the Harrogate International Centre, should contact Louise Lunn now on 01347 838581.

Janet makes her mark

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke congratulates Turfland’s Janet Watmore on her success as winner of a Women Into Business award.

Janet, who set up the turf growing and turf machinery company with husband Chris 30 years ago, was nominated in recognition of her work. Turfland and Turfland Professional Equipment employ over 20 staff on 600 acres in Cheshire and have an annual turnover in excess of £2m.

Within the two organisations, Janet is responsible for business strategies, sales and marketing and general management.

The meeting with the Chancellor at 11 Downing Street is only one of her steps into the spotlight: Janet’s company has also taken part in a “Challenge Anneka” TV programme.

More flexible

Richard Long Engineering Ltd has developed a 1.2 metre fully mounted version of its successful Flexispread topdresser.

The 4ft fully mounted Flexispread uses the same feed system as the larger, trailed 5ft model. Tel: 01773 520301.

Digging in

Greenkeepers picking up the pieces after an excessively wet winter have meant good news for Huxleys Grass Machinery.

They report exceptional demand for their new soil reliever (pictured). Director Paul Huxley explained: “Waterlogged greens and fairways have led to courses being closed and loss of income. A lot of customers have ordered the soil reliever as an effective way of improving drainage and relieving compaction.”
Licentiateship holders are applauded

Four years of part-time study plus at least five years industrial experience has been rewarded for 16 greenkeeping and horticulture students at Askham Bryan College.

The Yorkshire college believes the 11 greenkeeping students are the first in the country to collect the top award in their City & Guilds course - the licentiateship.

Bob McLaren, past president of the Scottish Golf Union and chairman of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, praised the commitment the students have shown for staying with four years of demanding study whilst in full-time employment. He urged them to use their success to promote training amongst their colleagues.

The 16 licentiateship holders are pictured with their Askham Bryan course tutors, college principal Mike Pollard, and Bob McLaren.

Spray drift problems can be cut by using adjuvant

Research by the University of Paisley confirms that spray drift can be dramatically reduced by adding a suitable adjuvant to the spray chemical before application.

The researchers, from the department of biological sciences, monitored spray drift following insecticide applications with and without the benefit of an adjuvant. Treatments containing the adjuvant showed a significantly confined spray pattern with greatly reduced drift loss.

The team, led by Dr John Thacker, used cabbage plants and strips of water-sensitive paper to monitor the spray drift which is now recognised as a major problem in the amenity sector. The plants were colonised with cabbage white butterfly larvae and ground beetles and placed at a series of downwind distances, ranging up to 20 metres away and at right angles to the path of a sprayer. The field experiments were undertaken both in winter and spring so that drift patterns could be monitored under varying wind conditions.

Following spray treatments, the number of dead insects on each plant were assessed as an indication of the extent to which the insecticide had reached non-target plants. Larvae on plants as near as 1m away remained totally unaffected following the insecticide plus adjuvant applications indicating minimal spray drift. Conversely, the wide spray drift of the insecticide-only spraying resulted in some kill even as far as 20m from the sprayer.

These results - obtained using the adjuvant Headland Guard - were presented at the recent British Crop Protection Council conference.

"To achieve these benefits, the adjuvant only needs to be added at 0.1% of the total spray solution, adding very little at all to the overall cost of an application," said Headland Amenity manager Mark De Ath.