Saltex '95 provided many of the major companies in the industry with an opportunity to unveil new products.

The Bob-Cat is Ransomes first hydrostatic drive walk-behind rotary mower. A principle feature is the hydrostatic transmission which allows the user to select the ideal ground speed up to 6mph. Two fingertip levers control the drive independently to each wheel for instantaneous forward and reverse, steering and braking. The power-turning facility gives a zero turning radius.

The Cushman Hawk is a four-wheeled, two seater vehicle which comes with the option of electric motor or petrol engine drive. It features a heavy-duty steel frame, all-round suspension and hydraulic brakes.

Ransomes launched four new products including a portable machine designed to restore keen edges to cutting cylinders from Ransomes company, Supreme Mowing Ltd. The Ransomes T-Plex 213 is an economically priced lighter-duty triplex mower designed for high output cutting or regularly maintained areas. It produces a seven foot cut from three 30in wide cutting cylinders and is the four wheeled machine which has superb balance and stability. Boasting front wheel drive and rear wheel hydrostatic power steering with the drive to the wheels also fully hydrostatic and a single foot pedal giving infinitely-variable forward speeds up to 10.6mph.

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The Supreme Superlap provides a portable drive for mower cutting units.

The Supreme Superlap, introduced by Supreme Mowing Ltd is ideal for those wishing to backlap cylinders from mowers which do not have a reverse drive facility on their cutting units and will give a restore a keen edge quickly to blades between major regrinds. The Superlap’s electric motor also has a reversible drive to enable left or right hand cutting cylinders to be backlapped.

Lindum Turf launched its latest product Lindum Squayrs. Made from BAYr Root Washed Turf grown into a Netlon Advanced Turf Rootzone the Squayr can be lifted using a specialist grab and placed accurately into badly worn areas. The product is the latest to come from the association between Lindum and the Australian company, StrathAYr which has patented both the BAYr Root Washed Turf and the Squayrs systems.

Jacobsen launched its Greens King V which is an up-dated version of its successful original version. The new machine is fitted with a Kubota 19HP engine and new “FlashAttach” reels which can be changed in seconds without the aid of tools and each is left hand drive making them interchangeable. There is also power steering and tilt wheel feature.

John Deere unveiled a series of new products at the show. Among them were Europro mid-price lawn tractors, a diesel-engined Gator utility vehicle, 55 HP to 85 HP tractors equipped with turf tyres, 48in rear discharge mower deck and front loader from lawn and garden tractors, precision tools for checking mower performance and quality of cut and the first public...
showing of the 2653A diesel-engined utility mower.

One of these, Turfcheck is used to measure the height of cut in grass as an aid to checking mower performance and quality of cut. It is placed on the grass and measures from 0.05 in up to 2.5 in using a prism for high levels of accuracy.

**FRESH FROM SALTEX**

SISIS launched the Eroll fine turf roller at the show.

Electrically powered to forward and reverse drive the Eroll has its own in-built battery charger.

Also launched was the SISIS Rolaspike 180, a tractor mounted sarel type roller with two independently floating hearts to follow ground contours and the SISIS sportsturf drainage machinery comprising a range of specialised compact machines, ideal for in-house operation.

**Charterhouse** launched its new Turf Tidy which de-thatches dead and deteriorating turf, helps to bring new life to soil and grass while thatch clippings and sweepings are hoovered up into its 2.5 cubic metre hopper.

**SISIS**'s Diagnostic Unit for the Bahia MBHE ride-on mower scooped the Best New Product Award at the show.

The unit was selected for its ability to save valuable downtime in speedily and easily locating electrical faults.

"Etesia is a very innovative company and this award gives recognition to our advanced and practical approach when developing new mowers," said Patrick Vives, Managing Director of Etesia UK Ltd.

**Amenity Technology Ltd** unveiled its second generation formulation Roots2 concentrate which promotes rapid root growth and regeneration for seedlings and which in US tests has shown a 53% improvement. Among the related new products were NoburN natural wetting agent and soil penetrant which is guaranteed not to scorch and AGRIplex micro-mix which is declared ideal for sand-based greens.

**Renault Agriculture** unveiled its Groundsman range. Available in either two or four wheel drive the new range comprises the three cylinder 52HP Renault 55-12 (2WD) and the 55-14 Groundsman (4WD) and the higher powered four cylinder 67HP Renault 70-12 (2WD) and 70-14 (4WD) Groundsman.

Although small in size both models have an impressive life capacity ranging from 2.5 tonnes for the shorter 55-12/14

**Introducing the new Greensmaster 3200-D**
Groundsman to 2.8 tonnes for the 70-12/14 model.

**Kubota (UK) Ltd** launched its new 14 HP petrol ride-on mower. The new machine, the T1560 – pictured below – features a special operating platform suspension system: to support the operator’s deck which combined with the high backd cushioned seat maximises operator comfort. "The new machine is an innovative step forward for both ride-on mower design and operator comfort," said Brian Hurtley, Vice-President Director of Kubota (UK) Ltd.

It was Brian’s final Saltex Show as he will be retiring next June.

**Toro launched five new machines – four entirely new and one an up-dated version of an existing machine.**

The Groundsmaster 3000-D is an out-front rotary which boasts a new design and several new features including a implement-disconnect system which allows the cutting deck to be removed from the power unit within minutes by unlatching a level on both lift arms. With a 35hp Peugeot diesel engine and 12 gallon tank the machine can operate all day on one fill-up.

The Groundsmaster 3200-D is the latest model to join the GM 3000 series and claims to have the quietest combustion engine in the industry – an 18hp Perkins diesel. Features include fully floating and steerable cutting units that follow the ground better than anything previously; the rear roller height of cut adjustment; an independent grass box ensures that there is no carrier frame roller influence so height of cut uniformity is ensured and now, easier to empty, grass boxes. The Reelmaster 2300-D is a dedicated tees mower totally new in design, engine, drive, cutting units and mainframe. It has a new hydraulic-drive reel system with variable reel speed which enables it to work in all kinds of grass and terrain including wet early morning grass. It also incorporates the new Toro L-I-N-K-S cutting unit suspension system and an adjustable spring counterbalance for enhanced ground contour following with no extra down pressure.

The Reelmaster 6500-D also boasts the L-I-N-K-S system and an ACE (Automated Control Electronics) system which automatically adjusts reel speed to mowing speed and can also be programmed to control mowing speed – maximum mowing and transport speeds are 7.5 and 10mph respectively. The new version of the existing machine is a four wheel drive version of the Toro utility vehicle which joins the Workman 4000 series.

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**SO QUIET, YOU CAN HEAR A PIN DROP.**

Early morning mowing is no problem for this greenkeeper. He knows there’ll be no complaints about noise because he’s operating a Greensmaster 3200.

With an exceptionally quiet engine it maintains its power for a full day’s work.

An operator’s dream, this new model is the latest in Toro’s top-selling Greensmaster 3000 series. Its unique new cutting system gives a superb quality of cut.

Floating cutting units follow ground contours like never before, while the ability of the cutting units to steer prevents sliding and scuffing when turning. Liquid cooled and diesel powered, it is exceptionally quiet, gives minimal vibration, comfortable seating and single joystick fingertip controls.

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