NEW PRODUCTS

A highly-effective alternative to brushing or switching fine turf to remove moisture prior to mowing has been developed by Ransomes.

The Air Groomer is a patented design available as an option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 walk-behind greensmower. The device comprises a full width, height-adjustable nozzle mounted on brackets ahead of the grassbox, an air delivery tube and a radial fan belt driven from the cutting cylinder layshaft. The fan produces an airflow in excess of 200 cu ft/min (5.6cu m/min) and the air delivery tube incorporates a flexible section to allow for nozzle height adjustment.

In action, the high volume curtain of air delivered by the nozzle displaces early morning dew and irrigation water droplets from the blades of grass, blowing them down into the soil to present a dry turf surface to the mower’s cutting unit. The result is a clean, precise finish without the time-consuming brushing or switching normally needed prior to mowing damp turf in order to give an effective cut and prevent the dropping of clumps of wet, cut grass.

By using the Air Groomer in conjunction with the Greens Super 55 mower, greenkeepers and groundstaff are able to save time and effort and avoid any risk of damage to the turf caused by physical pre-treatments on wet grass.

Both quiet in operation and simple to use and maintain, the Ransomes Air Groomer is available as a factory or dealer-fitted option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 greens mower.

Tonick Watering announces the addition of the new WinWater PC based irrigation controller to its fast growing range of products. It allows total control of any irrigation system from a PC and allows full flexibility for changing the program as required.

WinWater, running in Windows, is very simple to use and requires little or no computer skills to operate it. A boon to greenkeepers, changing from time-consuming conventional, fiddly controllers to the new “on-screen” set-up is straightforward and quick; familiarisation takes only a short time and setting up an irrigation programme is carried out by simply “pointing and clicking” with the computer mouse. Most older controllers can be upgraded to the new Windows based system usually without the need to change existing decoders or wiring.

Costing considerably less than other computer based controllers, WinWater is fully compatible with current decoders from TORO, Primetime, Robydome and Wright and with all Tonick Watering replacement decoders. Full support is provided by Tonick Watering.

For further information: Tel: 01903 262239.

The Little John Scarifier consists of a hydrostatic drive unit with fully floating scarifier head that also takes interchangeable options including verticut, moss remover, sorrel roller and brush reels. The possibility for extending the unit’s applications is considerable.

In field trials the hydraulic system gave a smooth, constant drive to the floating scarifying head. A new programmable “on-screen” set-up is part of the new “GreenCare” range of irrigation controllers, which passes through the screen and trash, dropping them to the ground where they are covered by the topsoil and trash, dropping them to the ground where they are covered by the topsoil where they are covered by the topsoil.

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greens and sports turf with suitable compact tractors.

Extremely quick, the Junior can solid tine to 12" depth and hollow core to 10", leaving a clean surface finish across the 48" working width.

As with the larger 60" and 80" Soil Relievers, the Junior has two separate crankshafts, each half being driven from the centre. This reduces torque and vibration, allows the machine to turn faster and increase tine speed, so that turf disturbance is minimised. The Junior's frame design adds leverage and places more weight at the tine heads. Together with the fast crankshaft turn, this gives a bigger and faster "hammer action", resulting in deeper soil penetration.

Huxleys say that customers with suitable small tractors, capable of handling the Junior's 1100 lb weight, will find that they can achieve similar operating speed and depth of penetration to that of the larger Soil Reliever Models 60 and 80. This may avoid the expense of purchasing a new larger tractor.

The Soil Reliever Junior costs £12,500 plus VAT, and is offered with optional hydraulic top link (for depth control from the operator's seat) and a wide variety of solid and hollow tines.

For further information: Tel: 01506 856668.

Miracle Professional (formerly ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) has launched "Invigorator", the latest addition to its "Longlife" range of amenity turf fertilisers. "Invigorator" is a true compound mini-granular feed and general turf conditioner with an analysis of 4.0 8 (+4% Fe + 2% Mg + 7.5% S + Seaweed Extract). The Iron and Magnesium help to give Rapid greening and hardening of the turf, while the sulphur helps in controlling soil pH.

For use on all amenity turf, the application rate of 35g per sq.m provides a bag coverage of 710 sq.m.

The recommended user price is £14.95 per 25Kg bag and is available from all Miracle Professional Main distributors.

For further information: Tel: The Miracle Professional Technical Advice Centre on 0990 301010.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has introduced two new reels for use with their range of Rotorakes:

The Verticutting Reel - Reel comprising close pitched, straight, triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season. Regular use removes thatch as it accumulates.

The Combined Reel - Thatch removal blades are pitched 20mm (3/4in) apart and interspersed with brushes. This reel removes thatch efficiently with the added benefit of a brushed finish and improved collection of debris. Used prior to mowing, it raises the grasses for a better cut.

A brand new spraying concept from Weed Free (Bracknell) promises to revolutionise customer service.

Flexible operating hours and the ability to perform in adverse weather conditions will enable spraying jobs to be tackled at off-peak playing times.

JUST A THOUGHT

Worry makes for a hard pillow. When something's troubling you, before going to sleep, jot down three things you can do the next day to help solve the problem.

SubAir. The perfect answer for a perfect green.

SubAir is a revolutionary approach to aeration and drainage stimulation for modern greens.

Optimum root zone conditions are created all year round by SubAir's unique ability to make a green breathe and to control root zone moisture conditions.

• Strong, deep root growth, not thatch build up
• Black Layer becomes a thing of the past
• Temperature moderation to defrost and prevent summer scorching
• Stimulation of natural microbiological nutrient production

The bottom line is healthier greens that spend more time being played on and less time in maintenance. Simple but effective.

If raising the quality of your greens while keeping the members playing is high on your score card, call Mick Tinning today on 01902 452138 and find out how SubAir can reduce your courses handicap.