NEW PRODUCTS

Environmentally friendly oils: the way ahead?

There is a worldwide concern at the scale of environmental pollution due to a wide ranging source of contaminants, particularly those from mineral hydro-carbons. The lubricants market has long been the target for environmental groups particularly when one considers that, allowing for natural consumption and reprocessing, within Europe a staggering 0.5 million tonnes of mineral oil remains unaccounted for.

To put this into perspective two litres of oil can contaminate one acre of water with the potential for serious effects on aquatic species in the lower food chain and excessive growth of algal blooms resulting in de-oxygenation of the water systems.

Therefore any equipment in direct contact with soil or water is a prime source of contamination and can be considered to be a potential source of pollution. Chain saws are a classic example as the total loss lubrication system employed by them is calculated to deposit approximately 5,000 tonnes of pollutant into the eco-system. Furthermore it has been calculated that approximately 80% of the total usage hydraulic oil used in agricultural equipment is lost through leakage and/or accidental spillage.

While mineral oil free lubricants have been available for some time it is a misnomer to assume that biodegradability automatically means environmentally friendly as, during the process of biodegradation it is not uncommon for toxins to be generated which can readily accumulate in the eco-system with catastrophic results to flora and fauna.

Bio-Lube (UK) Ltd will be the first oil company to be totally committed to marketing a range of biodegradable lubricants, based on natural vegetable oil technology, with minimal impact to the environment. This has been achieved by carefully selecting raw materials and additives which are completely non-phytotoxic and yet which still meet or exceed the specifications of most engine and pump manufacturers.

Particular application which will benefit from the all round advantages of the Bio-Lube range of products are:

- Golf courses (Reduces potential for damage to greens and fairways due to leakage and spillage) water authorities, foresters, local authorities, power boat users and enthusiasts.
- Or in fact any consumer of lubricants who wants to reduce the pollution impact of mineral oils.

The range of products currently on offer includes: hydraulic oils, diesel engine oils, chainsaw oils, 2 stroke oil, rust preventative, animal repellent.

John Le Mar, Managing Director of Bio-Lube (UK) Ltd, believes there is a change in attitudes towards the ever increasing threat of pollution to the environment. With the expected tightening of pollution controls just around the corner, companies who work on the land will have to consider carefully the products they use in the future.

Local seminars will be held and anyone wishing to attend or requiring information/technical data on the complete range of biodegradable lubricants, please complete the card attached inside the back cover of this magazine.

Following the introduction of Hoef chemical weed control system Wolverhampton based IPU has launched the Parsasene Weed Wand, an environmentally friendly approach to weed control that leaves no chemical residues, so treated areas are safe for the public. This a unique tool which resembles a walking-stick which uses a 185 gram butane canister is light and easy to operate. Just a touch from the high temperature flame at its tip destroys the cell structure of the weeds and they die in a few days. Because of its precise application it can be used close up against walls or between cracks in paving and even on flower beds. The unit is ideal for deep through the swift moving action of high pressure water jets. The water blasting at extreme force relieves compaction while soil amendments, sand or insecticides are placed at the root of the problem.

Tel: 01889 271503.

Staffordshire-based Turfmech Machinery has introduced a revolutionary way to incorporate liquid or dry materials into greens and tees with virtually no disturbance to the playing surface. Materials being injected are pulled into the ground up to eight inches through the swift moving action of high pressure water jets. The water blasting at extreme force relieves compaction while soil amendments, sand or insecticides are placed at the root of the problem.

Tel: 01889 271503.
NEW PRODUCTS

New products are available for use in shopping areas, precincts and car parks in fact any public areas which require weed treatment without leaving chemical residues. For the commercial operators and gardening contractors, the Weed Wand is an inexpensive addition to their fleet which safely simplifies the task of spot weeding on all types of applications including driveways, paths and patios. The Weed Wand is available direct from IPU at £34.99 inc VAT.

The most recent addition to Vermeer’s range of rugged stump cutters, the new 252 SC is designed to be both easy to use and environmentally-friendly. For ease of operation, the 252 SC has a simple control panel, preventing distractions while operating hydraulic controls to feather the sweep of the cutter precisely for optimum results. It also features Vermeer’s Auto Sweep system, that makes stump cutting easier for the operator and reduces stress on the machine.

Tel: 01933 274400 Fax: 01933 274403.

Roffey Brothers Ltd of Bournemouth has added a new range of slow release fertilisers to its catalogue. The latest polycoated technology directly from the United States is now available exclusively from Roffey Brothers Ltd. The new range is very attractively priced, particularly when comparing nutrient analysis and application rates with other competitive products. The accuracy of polycoating provides a much more consistent quality of coating and ultimately a more reliable pattern of release. The new polycoatings are stronger and less prone to damage that may be caused during application or subsequent maintenance operations. The range includes three minigranular Nutralene based fertilisers for fine turf with analysis suitable for both summer and autumn application. Nutralene’s success is its controlled release mechanism which assures a 10 to 12 weeks of sustained release under a broad range of environmental conditions and enriches the soil microbiology at the same time.

For further details contact Roffey Brothers Ltd. Tel (01202) 537777 or Fax (01202) 532765.

Spaldings has extended its range of Truecraft Air Tools to include a mobile Air Greasing System. Air Powered Greasers, says Spaldings, are the best and quickest way of ensuring consistent grease pressure reaches all bearings. This ensures reliable machinery lubrication at all times. The Truecraft Air Greaser is trolley mounted and has a high performance pneumatic pump and grease control gun. It can be used with any standard 12.5kg Grease Keg and has a minimum operating pressure of 30 PSI. The system is supplied with 6.5 metres of delivery hose and gun, and can be run by any tank fed compressor of 2HP and above.

If you want a safe and easy way to mow banks and slopes or to mow small confined areas -

Dixon & Holliday Ltd.
Unit 2, Sheppards Farm, Draycott Foliat, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 0HX.
Telephone: works 01793 741173, sales 01462 700547 Facsimile: 01793 741020

A wide range of other heads allows D & H knapsack machines to trim, mow, hedgecut, cultivate and much more. The operator has full control - with both his hands on the machine - and not on a rope. Where he has manoeuvrability and balance - then you need the Dixon & Holliday Knapsack Hover Mower

The One Thing I Just Couldn’t Work Without is: “My Kawasaki Mule”

Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC,
(Course which climbs to be higher than Edinburgh Castle)