Stihl launch new backpack brushcutter

Specially designed for ground maintenance in inaccessible areas, the new FR85 backpack brushcutter from Andreas Stihl is ideal for work on steep embankments, overgrown slopes, in narrow ditches and in confined areas.

Its low weight and reduced vibration levels, a newly developed carrying frame and the flexible connection between the power unit and the shaft allow the operator to work uphill without tiring. It can be fitted with a variety of cutting tools from nylon mowing heads to brush knives, making it easy to cut and clear grass, scrub, bushes and saplings. Extra flexibility is offered by the in that it can also be converted into a telescopic pruner or hedgetrimmer using one of several new attachments now available.

All engine functions can be controlled via the right-hand multi-function handle, ensuring that they are firmly under control at all times.

The Stihl FR85 backpack brushcutter will retail at £395 ex VAT.

Further information or a free brochure can be obtained by calling Freephone 0800 137574.

Greens Groomer sweeps up

The new Greensward Engineering 6' wide Greens Groomer attachment quickly fits behind almost any power unit and will handle a wide range of greens maintenance tasks.

It can be used for regular brushing and grooming to stand up the grass before mowing and to control grain, and is also exceptionally effective for raking in topdressing due to its patented multi brush design which moves the sand three ways to gently rub it in and fill aeration holes without scuffing or bruising the turf.

It can even be fitted directly behind a truckster mounted topdresser to apply and rub in topdressing in a single pass.

A 17' wide triple gang version is ideal for brushing fairways to remove worm casts and dew for improved early morning play.

For further information Tel: 0113 267 6000.

New moisture meter from Dynamax

Dynamax Inc, of Texas, USA, has launched the TH20 Theta Moisture Meter, to measure volumetric soil moisture content. It combines ease of use and accuracy with low cost, to give access to precise soil moisture data.

The probe is reliable, even in saline soils, and its compact size means minimal soil disturbance.

The sensor sends microwave signals and amplifies a reflected signal dependent on the dielectric constant (theta), a precise electronic parameter for the volume of water in soil (plus or minus 2% accuracy). TH20 is simple to use: the probe is inserted into the soil and when pushing the button then the LCD shows the volume of water in soil as a decimal value.

The palm-sized, battery powered, display device provides instantaneous readings for mineral or organic soils, which may be selected by a slide switch on the front panel.

For further information Tel: 001 281 564 5100
'Tailor-made' Pro-Tee golf signs from Links Leisure

Links Leisure, has extended its Pro-Tee range with the introduction of a brand new series of wooden course signs.

The new signs are the latest addition to a range of specially designed products which already includes accessories such as all-weather mats and practice nets, plus an array of course furniture such as tee markers, litter bins, divot boxes and also golf signs manufactured from various materials.

Marketed under the trade name "The Pro-Tee Collection", the range has become increasingly popular with operators who realise the need to provide on-course facilities such as directional signs, hole information, etc., but, at the same time, want to include a corporate identity element for their own particular golf course.

A major feature of the Pro-Tee range is the fact that each product is tailor-made in detail, style, and colour to meet the individual requirements of each golf course and that many of the products can also be used for sponsorship or advertising.

The new wooden golf signs - produced from either mahogany or oak - follow the same pattern. Individually produced, the range includes entrance and finger post signs, plus a choice of teemarkers which can incorporate club and hole names.

For further information Tel: 01948 663002

New fertilisers are mighty 'fine'

Two new Multigreen controlled release fertilisers have joined the Greenpower range of specialist turf products distributed by Headland Amenity Products.

Known as Multigreen Fine, the fertilisers have been developed by Haifa Chemicals for turf which is cut between 6mm and 10mm - for example, close-mown golf tees, approaches, surrounds, fairways and cricket outfields. The small size of the granules used minimises the quantity taken up by mowers, and increases coverage at low applications.

Multigreen Fine 25+5+15 is for spring and summer applications, and 19+10+30 for autumn and winter. Both have a five to six month release period in the UK and are sulphur-free, with nutrients derived from potassium nitrate, mono ammonium phosphate and urea.

For close-cut turf such as golf greens and bowling greens Headland offers Multigreen Mini, which has even smaller granules and also provides up to six months' nutrition from one application.