**Demands for quality turf set to grow**

Turf buyers, specifiers and installers are being urged to place orders sooner rather than later for quality seeded turf required for landscaping projects during the year.

The advice comes from the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) which is forecasting shortages of cultivated turf, and higher prices, over the coming 12 months due to continuing delays in re-seeding caused by the wet weather experienced nationally since last September.

Returns from the TGA members' survey carried out in December 2000 reveal that the total turf area sown by members last autumn was 20 per cent down on predictions made in the members' survey of June 2000 and 20 per cent down on the total area sown by TGA members in the autumn of 1999.

"The optimism of last June's survey has been washed away by three months of autumn rain, the fuel blockades and, now, the foot and mouth crisis," commented TGA spokesman, Graeme Forbes.

"From reporting good business and good prospects in the summer of 2000, a number of turf growers have seen sales fall by 60 per cent. This was highlighted by last December's TGA survey in which a staggering 79 per cent of respondents described current trade as ranging from fair to very poor.

**Whatever the weather!**

A new computerised weather station is being employed by one of Sovereign Turf to help maintain consistently high production standards of their quality turf - whatever the weather.

"Information fed into the computer assesses rainfall and the irrigation required to maintain the correct moisture level for the grass," said Mac Bailey, General Manager at Sovereign.

"The weather station has made a dramatic difference as we can now predict the necessity for water up to 10 days ahead. The system only applies the correct amount, at the correct time, without any wastage."

This is the first year the system will be fully utilised, following successful trials last year. Linked to tensiometers - used to measure the amount of water in the ground - readings are taken every 15 minutes and the weather centre also takes into account wind and humidity.

Water levels were previously checked every other day by taking readings in the field and these were used to predict five days ahead.

**New General Manager for C+P Soilcare**

John Warren has been appointed General Manager of C & P Soilcare. John joins the company with a background in mechanical engineering and 18 years of senior management experience with local companies.

He studied and qualified at Suffolk College and has since achieved incorporated engineer status with the Institute of Engineering. John, who is 40, lives at Haughley Green and is married with two sons.

**Latest recruits graduate to EIGCA**

Following their recent successful conclusion of the Professional Diploma course of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects, Miss Ljubica Jovetic (far left) and Richard Myers (left) now join the Institute as Graduates. Both were awarded Distinctions in the Graduation ceremony held in April in Surrey, England.

Myers, with a Landscape Design degree from University of Greenwich, London also gained the Barenbrug prize.

Jovetic, a Croatian who has played golf for her country, and an engineering graduate from Zagreb University, becomes her nation's first qualified Golf Course Architect.