Greenkeeper International takes a look at the very latest products and services available from the fine turf industry

Scotts launch new range of organic based fertilisers

Scotts has launched a new range of organic based turf fertilisers formulated to give turf managers the benefits of both organic and inorganic fertiliser. New Greenmaster Organic fertilisers combine inorganic and organic nutrient sources with natural bio-stimulants, ensuring accurate, reliable provision of essential nutrients whilst also enhancing the soil micro-flora.

The organic fraction of Greenmaster Organics is derived from chicken manure and, in addition to providing a proportion of the nutrient charge in slow release form, will help improve soil structure, stimulate soil organisms, encourage thatch breakdown and enhance micro flora responsible for fighting turf diseases. By combining this material with a mineral based fertiliser, reliable provision of NPK and trace elements is assured and the product formulation can be tailored more appropriately for today's needs.

"Greenmaster Organic is designed for the environmentally aware turf manager looking for good performance and value for money. It is efficient to use, effective, based on solid science and it works. Essentially, Greenmaster Organic combines the reliability of mineral feeds with the benefits of organics - and none of the drawbacks," said Scotts Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby.

There are two formulations available so far. Greenmaster Organic Spring and Summer (12-5-11 + TE) is designed as a high nitrogen seasonal treatment with 19% of the N derived from organic sources. Greenmaster Organic Pre-Winter (7.3-17 + TE) is an autumn treatment with 37% of the N derived from organic sources.

For further information
Tel: 01473 830492

Latest addition from SCH will sweep you away

The new SCH (SUPPLIES) LTD. PRO120 Brush Sweeper is designed for use on large level surfaces. The addition to the range has twin land wheel drive and 300 litres capacity polypropylene hopper. When full, the hopper can be discharged from your compact tractor seat by means of the draw cord. This feature reduces the time needed to empty the unit, as well as an aid to those customers who have difficulty lifting. The brush adjusting handle has five positions. Other features include a free wheel transport mode, three speed brush settings and a stop parking position. The PRO120 has a 1200 mm working width and weights 85 kg.

For further information
Tel: 01473 326272

Spray boom safety from Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced to the UK the Rogers Windfoil Lite Spray Boom, whose unique features allow spraying to be done with maximum safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

Spraying needs to be done with the strictest accuracy to avoid accidentally treating non-target areas and to prevent over-application, which can lead to problems such as grass scorching or run-off into waterways.

Perhaps the most impressive of all the Windfoil Lite’s attributes is the clever design of the shrouded boom, which ensures that the chemical is always applied in an enclosed environment, so that droplets cannot be picked up and distributed by strong winds. Unlike other shrouded systems, the Rogers unit has specially designed aeroflows on top of the booms, which avoid the creation of eddies of turbulence behind the enclosure. Research has shown that sprayer enclosures without an aeroflow actually push air upwards, creating an eddy that thwarts the applied.

The Windfoil Lite’s aeroflows, developed after extensive wind tunnel trials, redirect the air downwards so that the spray is targeted towards the ground. A drift-stop curtain at the rear also helps to seal the enclosure and eliminate drift. Tests have shown that the Windfall’s enclosed booms give less drift in a 24 mph wind than a conventional open boom in a 6 mph wind, allowing grounds professionals to maintain work schedules in less than ideal conditions. The aeroflows have front and back mounts to secure them even during high speed transport.

The Windfoil Lite is available in two versions, the WL5000 and WL6000, with working widths of 5m and 6m respectively. Electric folding of the booms is available as an option.

For further information
Tel: 01428 661222

C-Dax Europe has introduced a new three-point linkage mounted sprayer suitable for use with any compact tractor with sufficient lift capacity. The 400 litre unit is supplied with a 4.0m boom, and is designed to offer ease of operation and high accuracy combined with rugged build. Standard features include a clean water tank plus remote hose reel for spot spraying. As with all C-Dax equipment, the sprayer is purpose made for professional use and can be specified to suit a range of applications. Prices are from £1300.

For further information Tel: 01953 609999

Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to; The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF

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New and improved Allman

The new HD16 16 litre backpack sprayer is set to replace the Allman mid range A16 sprayer which has proved popular for many years. The HD16 offers many improvements to its predecessor.

1. High output piston pump offers a greater pump displacement of liquid on each hand stroke of the pump, thus making it more efficient and needing less pumping strokes to maintain pump pressure.
2. A large screw filling lid incorporating a deep strainer to aid easy filling.
3. Ability to switch the pump handle from left to right hand pump operation.
4. Shoulder straps with quick release strap adjustment to enable easy Adjustment of the straps when the knapsack is on the operators back.

The HD16 shares many components that have been used in the high specification Allman XL 3, which has a long track record of being a robust and reliable workhorse used by many knapsack fleet users.

At the same time many of the accessories/attachments such as spray shields, lance extensions, 2/3 nozzle cross booms, together with the Allman UPC constant pressure valve for operations at 1 or 2 bar, are easily attached to both the new HD16 and the XL1 knapsacks, making them very versatile and user friendly back-pack sprayers.

Recommended retail price - £59.00 plus VAT.

For further information Tel: 01243-512511

Increased versatility and range from Oleo Mac

Oleo Mac has increased the versatility of its brushcutters with the addition of hedgetrimmer and pruner attachments which will fit most brushcutters in the range.

The EP 100 pruner is designed for most plant pruning and trimming jobs and is quick and easy to fit, without the need for tools. The 30 degree angle of the bevel gear allow precise control of the bevel gear producing effortless branch removal.

The Oleo Mac hedgetrimmer transforms the brushcutter into an efficient 48cm blade trimmer with a number of fixed position throughout the 270 degree blade rotation making overhead, ground or side-wall operation effortless. A 23cm blade is also available for tidying flower beds and a runner fitted to the attachment allows the machine to glide easily over the ground.

For further information Tel: 01488 689400

Indoor putting green from Huxley

An indoor putting green from Huxley Golf has been installed within the impressive new Golf Science laboratory located at the PGA National Training Academy, The Belfry.

"There is a growing awareness and understanding of the close relationship between science and sport," explained Dr Kyle Phillips, head of training and education at the PGA National Training Academy.

"Our new laboratory is designed to demonstrate how golf science can be applied to golf performance and contains a range of equipment which will help recreate the physical and mental stresses encountered on a golf course. The aim is to help golfers maintain control over the mind and the body, for example, when faced with a three foot putt to win a tournament having walked 120 yards up hill to the green."

Latest product innovations to be jointly marketed

Richard Aitken Seedsmen Ltd, Aitken's Sports Turf and Amenity Products have developed a new national brand of amenity products under the name AWARDS and will be jointly marketing this range throughout Scotland England and Wales.

Launched at BTME 2002 were AWARD Green Lite and Sport Lite Fertilisers, a unique range of high performance fertilisers. Green Lite combining organic and vermiculite technology for fine turf and Sport Lite with organic and conventional nutrients for outfield turf. Award fertilisers are designed to give extended performance to the grass sward. The nutrients are retained in the root zone longer than conventional fertilisers, reducing the number of applications needed over the season and also making them more environmentally friendly, due to reduced leaching.

Green Lite's fine turf unique vermiculite organic technology results in lightweight compound granules to ensure perfect distribution at low rates, the particle size is up to 1.2 mm. With low air permeability giving a feed per cent of mind, giving an even release to reduce excessive early growth after application over an extended period, compared, with traditional formulations. There are four analyses to meet fine turf requirements.

Sport Lite outfield fertilisers come in two formulations, autumn/winter and spring/summer, designed to give an extended release on outfield turf. This true compound granule gives accurate low rate application and is suitable for all sports pitches, fairways, aprons and surrounds. The organic content stimulates healthy grass and encourages beneficial root zone microbes.

The Soil Improver fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulants, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial microbes. Soil Improver also releases alginate gel once moist, which helps till and crumb structure in all soil types, aiding aeration, moisture and nutrient retention. The add-on potassium helps to produce tougher harder wearing turf, ideal for use on turf, seeding, turf laying or shrub bed enriching.

For further information Tel: 01254 820068

Maxi-interest in Micro-granulars

Gem's new range of granular fertilisers attracted interest from new and existing customers alike at BTME earlier this year.

The micro-granular range allows for accuracy of application that is perfect for fine turf surfaces. Visitors to the show were especially delighted to see Gem's original Organic Golf Green 8-0-0 in a micro-granular form.

To promote the new products Gem had a competition to guess the number of 8-0-0 granules in a jar. The lucky winner of a colour television was Stuart Bertram, of Moor Park Golf, Hertfordshire who was closest to the massive 342,000 actually in there.

For further information Tel: 01254 356611

Email press releases about new products to: scott@bigga.co.uk

March 2002 Greenkeeper International
Ecosolve return to St Andrews with Deep Drill

St. Andrews Links Trust saw the return of Ecosolve's Deep Drill 60/18 for further aeration work on the historic greens of The Old Course. Initially work had been carried out on the 1st Green in November 2000, and twelve months later the second stage of the aeration programme was conducted and also broadened to include an area on the 2nd Green.

After a demonstration of the Drill and Fill aerator shortly before the 2000 Open, The Links Trust booked the sister machine, the Deep Drill 60/18 for later in the year.

"We needed aeration and extraction of rootzone, and the drilling concept met that requirement. However, it had to be deeper than twelve inches," commented Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent. "Ecosolve were able to meet the criteria of exceptional operating depth and extraction with the Deep Drill 60/18 aerator."

Ecosolve's operation in 2000 had been a great success. "The work done in stage one gave exactly the results we had hoped for," said Gordon. "Significant levels of rootzone extraction coupled with compaction relief. The consequent improvement in the greens' performance gave us the confidence to proceed with stage two,"

Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper on The Old Course, added.

"The increase in root extension was incredible. Whenever we changed the pin position during 2000, we could clearly see that the roots were going deeper, and this has increased the plant's health and natural resilience to wear and tear."

A significant factor in determining the level of success of the operation was how easy it might be to reinstate play on those Old Course greens that thousands of golfing pilgrims from around the world flock to. Much to everyone's satisfaction, the greens were open for play again within hours. Eddie explained "Such deep work might ordinarily cause disruption to the trueness of the putting surface, but we have found that not to be the case. After luting in a light top-dressing and a mow/roll, the green was reopened, and we experienced no adverse impact on play."

Bretton King, Ecosolve Limited's Technical Director, was delighted to receive the St. Andrews enquiry.

"When St. Andrews Links first contact is and explained what the requirements were, we naturally hoped we could provide what was needed. The factory became involved and a specially designed head was produced. We were delighted to have been able to satisfy The Links Trust's special needs and hope that we can continue to be of service to St Andrews with machine sales or contract work."

Ecosolve Limited is the exclusive importer and distributor of the revolutionary Deep Drill 60/18 and Drill and Fill aerators.

Howardson launch Mowersafe

BTME saw the launch of a totally new and innovative device designed to combat the theft of mowers from sports clubs.

British manufacturer, Howardson Ltd, following research carried out by an insurance company, has introduced Mowersafe, which highlighted the alarming increase in theft of valuable equipment from clubs' storage sheds. Their recommendations were for some form of protection for this type of vulnerable machinery, which is often stored in an isolated wooden building with inadequate security or alarm systems.

Mowersafe will securely store any make of cylinder mower with up to a 24" cut - it is designed to be simple to use and effective. The 10mm heavy-duty steel structure takes up little more space than the mower itself. The unit can be secured to the concrete, earth or steel floor of the shed for added protection.

High specification hardened steels are used for the main lock pin making grinding, sawing and cutting extremely difficult. The heavy-duty locking system incorporates a barrel lock, which cannot be hammered off or bolt cropped. Weighing in at 160 kg, Mowersafe represents a formidable challenge to any intruder.

"While many mowers are now fitted with Datatags, this is only a trace method and does not prevent a theft happening in the first place. Mowersafe offers clubs a cost effective security device designed to protect their equipment and fight crime," said Howardson's Managing Director, Ian Howard.

The unit is priced at £395 plus VAT and installation can be arranged.

Verti-core line-up introduced by Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced a range of tractor-powered turf corees. The verti-core line-up comprises three machines. The 1300, 1700 and 2100 have working widths of 1.3m, 1.7m and 2.1m and take tractors of 22 hp, 28 hp and 35 hp. All three have more moving elements within a given width than comparable machines, giving more thorough treatment of the turf. Each can penetrate to a maximum depth of 125 mm.

The machines feature positive drive, being powered via a gearbox and crankshaft, rather than relying on belt drive, which is prone to slippage and loss of performance. This also ensures a constant hole pattern is maintained across the work area. The corers can be fitted with multi-tine heads, giving hole spacings across their widths of 17 mm, 22.5mm and 32 mm, and a comprehensive range of cut options are available.