GREEN MASTER

Scotts' has unveiled an improved range of Greenmaster Liquid fertilisers. The improved products are based on more than just NPK and trace elements. Every product in the Greenmaster Liquid range now includes TMax, a powerful nutrient uptake activator which improves the rate of nutrient intake by the grass plant and ensures the turf has a consistent colour with no rapid tail off.

TMax ensures that the liquid application spreads out and sticks onto the leaf to maximise the leaf area for nutrient uptake and reduce leaf run off. In addition, TMax enables nutrient to move through the soil profile to the root area. Here it makes available previously locked up nutrients resulting in better nutrient balance in the soil and improved turf quality.

The new range includes four core products High N, NK, High K and Spring and Summer. There are also three speciality products STEP liquid (a trace element mix), Iron 4 (Fe 4% ESDA chelated) and Ca Booster (08 00 00 + 10% CaO + TE).

For further information Tel: 01473 830386; Web: www.scottsprofessional.co.uk.

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

A new flail head has been introduced for the Fern range of hedge cutters distributed in the UK by Rustons Engineering to give a particularly high quality cut on hedges and grass verges. It can be top mounted or rear mounted and has a 115cm width of cut.

The flails on the new TJ120 head are arranged in a spiral on the heavy duty rotor, which gives more overlap than is possible with a conventional linear arrangement, so a finer finish is achieved. The rotor is balanced electronically, with the counterweights bolted on the end shields where they cannot be damaged or knocked off.

The hood is a double skin structure with replaceable side skids and rubber protection at the front. The clearance between flail and casing gradually increases, which produces a turbine effect, so the cut material is discharged particularly effectively, giving higher work rates. The adjustable rear roller not only controls cuffing height but can also be moved out of work for hedge cutting.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151.

Lindum Turf has joined forces with British Flora, a UK aquatic and wild flower nursery, to produce the company’s latest innovation, Reedfelt.

A combination of Lindum’s Grassfelt technology, using a biodegradable felt made from recycled British textiles, and British Flora’s high quality reeds, Reedfelt provides a lighter and more sustainable alternative to traditional coir blankets.

Aimed mainly at landscapers, local authorities and environmental agencies, Reedfelt can be used for the stabilisation of waterways and wild margins as well as water filtration treatment. British Flora, whose core business is bioengineering, specialise in the production of native reed species, collecting seed and plant material from all over the country. The two companies believe the product will also find favour at golf clubs for use in lakes and water runs, amongst other things.

For further information Tel: 01904 448675; Web: www.turf.co.uk.

CAST OVER THE WORM

The Wormcast Company has unveiled a new range of products for turf care at Harrogate Week. The company’s wormcast products: Wormcast Organic fertiliser and probiotic soil conditioner and new development especially for turf care, liquid Wormcast Wormcast ‘T’.

Kent based, The Wormcast Company successfully launched Wormcast last year for the gardening market and is now keen to make this product available to the sports, landscaping and turf industries. It is an organic fertiliser and probiotic soil conditioner made from casts produced by millions of earthworms and contains beneficial micro organisms in abundance.

Wormcast aims to appeal to those looking for a versatile organic product which improves soil quality, encourages healthy growth, deters pests and diseases and has many other benefits such as improving germination and turf quality.

For further information Tel: 0845 605 5000.

MAPPING FAST

Korec, a UK Mobile GIS and Mapping GPS solutions company, is launching its new FastMAP Greenkeeper Golf Course GIS and Management system.

FastMAP Greenkeeper has been developed following extensive research into the maintenance and operation of all types of Golf Course, and is designed to provide greenkeepers with the ability to survey any changes to the course template and keep an up to date and accurate digital course map.

This can be used to calculate precise area and distance measurements which are available at the finger tips; to keep an historical record of all course features including Drainage and Irrigation layouts; to redesign and survey new Hole Templates; to accurately locate buried or hidden features; to printout risk assessment maps for greenkeepers and contractors and much more.

For further information Tel: 0151 9313161.
GET THE BLADE

Aitkens have developed the new Blade range of grass seeds in conjunction with the world’s largest grass seed breeding and production company. The company has carefully blended the Blade mixes with fine mixtures which have some excellent characteristics. These include shoot density for true surface, freedom from disease, cleanliness of cut, good summer or winter colour. The medium and heavy duty mixtures strengths include excellent live ground cover, wear tolerance, recovery, visual merit and density. There are nine Blade ranges, including Bent, Fescue, Creeping Bents and Dwarf Rye.

For further information Tel: 01977 681155.

NEW MODELS

Available now are a new generation of hedge trimmers from Stihl. The new models, Stihl HS 81 and US 86, not only deliver superb trimming and cutting performance, they equally cut vibration levels. With fuel consumption reduced by 20% and a fuel tank enlarged by 25%, the new model hedge trimmers cut running costs too.

The Stihl HS 81 has double sided blades and the HS 86 has single sided blades for the broad sweeping motion some users prefer. Each model is available with a choice of blade lengths and both are offered in either hedge trimming or cutting configuration making a total eight variations available in the range.

For further information Tel: 01276 20202; Web: www.stihl.co.uk.

SPRAY PRO

Launched by Techneat Engineering at Harrogate Week, the Acuspray Pro provides a precise, highly reliable and safe technique for the application of liquid fertiliser, herbicides and fungicides to sports pitches, lawns, pathways and other areas.

Featuring an entirely new positive displacement diaphragm pump, designed and manufactured by Techneat, the walk-behind design Acuspray Pro will consistently deliver spray at 400 l/ha to ensure even coverage of grass and good spray penetration for effective results. Direct-drive metering starts spraying as the machine moves forward, and cuts off instantly when the operator stops; achieving highly accurate and precise application. An off-on trigger control is fitted to facilitate moving between spraying areas.

For further information Tel: 01353 862044.

REDESIGN FOR DAKOTA

Dakota has introduced its totally redesigned Turf Tender product line for the 2006 model year. Designed with the operator in mind, the new Turf Tenders have fewer parts and are easier to use, adjust and maintain. The new features also give operators greater material handling control from the seat, providing safe, fast and easy adjustments during the job.

New to the 410, 412 and 414 Turf Tenders is an electric control box with digital readouts to give operators precise control over spreader settings. The 410 control box also features a Honda key start and throttle up switch for engine models. A new rear conveyor converts the 410 topdresser to a material handler and fits every mounted and pull type 410 model, regardless of year.

For further information Tel: 01260 224568; Web: www.campyeturfcare.com.

BUFFALO Hog

JK Inc, providers of niche turf technology products, unveiled the latest addition to the Buffalo Range at Harrogate Week 2006, Europe’s largest indoor turf management exhibition. The Buffalo Hog is a versatile utility bike, with fuel economy of up to 120 mpg.

The Hog is primarily for leisure and golf course use, but can be used on the road for short journeys of around 1.5km for agricultural or similar purposes. Its 11 inch wide tyres, combined with its low weight, means the Buffalo Hog has an extremely low ground pressure making it ideal for sensitive soil or turf applications.

Available in diesel or petrol, the Buffalo Hog is set to change the face of Golf Course maintenance, providing a solution to a range of towing and transport issues.

For further information Tel: 01763 208142.

A REEL TRAILER

Rain Bird, the irrigation equipment manufacturer, has launched its new line of Hose Reels including a Hose Reel Trailer. The Trailer’s ergonomic design and rugged construction makes hose handling easier, quicker and more efficient. It attaches easily to most off-road golf work vehicles or carts with a clevis pin hitch.

The Trailer is made from 40” x 40” heavy gauge steel bed, and is predrilled for the Rain Bird range of Heavy Duty hose reels. The Trailer is highly versatile, being designed with additional space for tool trays and accessories. It comes with dual tapered automotive-style bearings and solid steel axle for smooth, reliable operation. Fitted with pneumatic tires, the high quality wheels are recessed under trailer bed to eliminate snagging of trees and shrubs.

Handling around the golf course and the greenkeeping compound is made significantly easier with the extra long 32” trailer tongue, which allows for sharper turns and easier back up. With a maximum weight capacity of 400-lbs, and a 15-mph maximum speed, it is intended for off-road use only.

For further information Tel: 01438 314583.