Don't be rushed into buying a new top dresser by a highly attractive “never to be repeated” price or special “once only” trade-in offer. Take your time, examine all the options and always test the short-listed machines with the most commonly applied materials on your course.

Wise words of advice from Steve Isaac of the Sports Turf Research Institute, who admits that selecting the most suitable top dresser for a full range of possible golf course applications “has become a bit of a minefield”.

“Most modern machines are able to handle most standard top dressings without problem,” he commented. “However, uneven flow and erratic application can occur when applying bulky or very fine materials and when texture and moisture content are of variable consistency, particularly when on the damper side.

“Machine weight, its capacity and the method of drive need careful consideration to best satisfy the top dressing requirements of different turf surfaces,” said Mr Isaac. “A machine suitable for dressing a green can be totally inappropriate for work on a fairway, and vice versa. It is no easy job selecting the best machine to carry out the widest range of tasks.”

Mr Isaac pointed out that there are few top dressers on the market able to consistently and evenly apply wet materials. “In any case, if dressings are too wet it will be difficult to work them in to the turf,” he said. “Too dry, and blowing can reduce evenness of spread. The aim should be a material of an even consistency, both in particle size and moisture content.”

Important points to consider when considering different top dressers include capacity, weight, working width and the power unit to be used. The above factors will determine workrate, the range of surfaces across which the machine can be used safely and the back-up resources needed to keep the top dresser supplied and filled with fresh material.

“At the end of the day, the aim must be to apply dressings evenly, accurately and at the best possible workrate,” stressed Mr Isaac. “However, all this must be achieved without damaging the playing surface.”

With all these points in mind, one machine type which has shown considerable expansion in recent years is the self-propelled, pedestrian-controlled top dresser. The machine’s compact dimensions make for convenient operation and loading while its size and single wheel steering give greater manoeuvrability and lower weight than a trailed, a tractor-mounted or a truck-mounted combination. This makes it ideal for work on difficult access or awkward shaped greens and soft or tender turf, especially following verti-draining or hollow coring.

Because the machine’s dimensions limit the amount of material it can carry, the self-propelled machine is considered best suited for use on smaller areas such as nine hole, par three or pitch and putt courses where resources or assistance may be limited.

However, where back-up is available by way of supply trailers and help with reloading, the pedestrian machine is able to maintain a reasonable workrate on larger areas without undue...
fears over turf damage, especially on newly laid or freshly aerated greens and tees.

Furthermore, its ability to be moved easily by trailer from site to site makes it ideal for contract teams needing to top dress quickly a number of fine turf surfaces of limited area without the extra weight or cost of an additional power unit.

For these reasons, the self-propelled machine is also appearing within a growing number of hire fleets.

Until quite recently, the number of purpose built self-propelled machines available was limited to just one make, the Turfco Mete-R-tenance services.

For the past two years, the number of self-propelled top dressers on the market has mushroomed with the introduction of four new machines from Turfmech Machinery, Sisis, Blec and Ultra Plant.

Over the past two years, the number of self-propelled top dressers on the market has mushroomed with the introduction of four new machines from Turfmech Machinery, Sisis, Blec and Ultra Plant.

All feature powered downward discharge of top dressings, essential to ensure that material reaches the base of the turf. However, the method of material delivery and distribution differs on all four machines.

The Sisis Autospread has a vibrating plate at the base of its 9 cu ft (255 litre) hopper from where top dressings are shaken, via an adjustable gate, to the rear delivery brush. Drive to the machine's two wheels is hydrostatic, powered by a 5.5hp Honda engine and equipped with extension hopper sides adding an extra 2 cu ft (56 litres) capacity. Price of the Turfco F15B is £4,035.

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Fully conversant with a very wide range of machinery and other course products.

Seeks position in the machinery or fertiliser/pesticide market; representative or demonstrator would suit.

Southern England preferred.

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23 year old senior assistant seeks position of deputy/first assistant greenkeeper.

Six and a half years' experience on 18 and 27 hole courses, modern machinery, computerised irrigation systems, construction and growing in of USGA spec greens. C&G Phases 1, 2, 3, Groundsmanship and Sports Turf Management PA1 and PA2A Spraying Certificate.

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**Required is a GOLF COURSE MECHANIC**

with irrigation experience. The person holding this position will be responsible for the maintenance of the golf course machinery and the upkeep of the Toro irrigation system. The successful applicant should have previous golf course or related industry experience.

Written application, with a full CV should be addressed to:

The Course Manager, Duke's Dene Golf Club, 1 Heathcock Court, 415 Strand, London WC2R 0NS
**East Sussex National Golf Club**

**HOME OF THE EUROPEAN OPEN**

Set in the beautiful rolling countryside of the South Downs in the heart of East Sussex, the East Sussex National Golf Club is looking for a **HEAD GREENKEEPER** to join its team of hardworking, conscientious staff.

With 4/5 years experience and a minimum qualification of City and Guilds Stage I and II, the successful applicant will be required to motivate and supervise staff and take responsibility for programming and overseeing the day to day maintenance of one of the 18 hole courses under the guidance of the Golf Course Manager. East Sussex National prides itself on the high standard and quality of the condition of its two 18 hole courses, three hole Teaching Academy and practice ranges, and this is an excellent career move for an ambitious and confident greenkeeper who can demonstrate sound and positive team management, self-motivation and a willingness to learn new methods and techniques.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to:

Ken Barber, Golf Course Manager,
East Sussex National Golf Club,
Little Horsted, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5ES.

Closing date: 30th September 1994

**Burhill Golf Club**

requires an **EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER**

Qualification levels Phase I and II City & Guilds
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Salary negotiable.
Accommodation may be provided.

Application with CV in writing to:

M B Richards, Secretary/Manager,
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**Griffin Golf Club**

require a **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management.

An ability for hands on management combined with motivation and leadership skills is a high priority.

The successful applicant will have responsibility for the management of the existing 9 hole course and to take over the final growing-in period of a further 12 holes prior to opening the new 18 hole course in 1995.

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Applications in confidence with full CV to:

Mrs Jean Johnson, Secretary,
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**Finchley Golf Club**

seeks a **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

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The successful candidate will have some of the following skills, knowledge, experience and personal qualities, and will be rewarded accordingly

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If you wish to advance your career, and believe you have the necessary self-motivation, apply to:

The Secretary, Finchley Golf Club, Nether Court,
Frith Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PU
Tel: 081 346 2436 Fax: 081 343 4205