FULCRUM Blade™ is a totally new generation of supplement for your turf. Developed and marketed by Cargill plc, one of the world’s largest fertiliser companies, Blade™ is based on the new technology of carbohydrate nutrition.

It works by supplying the naturally occurring mycorrhiza in the soil with a readily available source of energy.

The results seen by a whole range of users from golf courses to turf growers are a healthier and stronger plant with far greater tolerance to drought, due to the increase in root mass, leading to more efficient use of the other inputs applied.

Recently launched in the UK, this new technology is one of the most cost effective, natural ways of optimising the performance of your turf.

Please consult one of our distributors for details or contact Cargill on freephone 0800 919187.
Why Pick on Lawnmowers?

You haven’t by any chance been following the debate about the admission by the manufacturer that faulty replacement hips have been fitted to unwitting patients over the last few years and how these poor people are going to have to go through the pain and stress of having them removed and replaced?

Now you may be wondering what on earth I’m doing using your magazine to talk about hip replacements. I wouldn’t blame you and, believe me, I wouldn’t have chosen to open with such a subject if it hadn’t been for something I read in a paper recently.

A health spokesman was quoted as saying that there was more quality assurance involved in the manufacture of a lawnmower than there was in the production of a new hip.

My first thought was to think what good publicity it was for all the makers of grass guzzlers among our friends in the industry - at long last a bit of recognition.

Then I thought a bit longer. Why were lawnmowers chosen to make such a comparison? Surely they could have said the same about television sets, or washing machines, or even bicycles.

Then it dawned on me. To the general public the comparison, “there is more quality assurance involved in the manufacture or a Rolls Royce than there is in the production of a new hip” would have carried no weight. “So what” would have been the cry. It needed to be something deemed frivolous to make the analogy work.

Why was a lawnmower used? Because, obviously by some, it is perceived to be a mundane, bog standard, piece of garden machinery with no real importance in the scheme of things whatever. That’s why.

I’ll put money on the fact that the person who brought lawnmowers into the debate about hip replacements knows nothing about what it takes to produce the machines which cut late 20th century grass. If he did, he would have chosen something else with which to make his perfectly valid health safety point.

The sophistication now employed in even the most basic of mowers would leave John Logie Baird and Isambard Kingdom Brunel gasping in admiration while, if the idea for hydrostatic drive had popped into Archimedes’ brain while in the bath, he may have leapt out and charged through the town, dripping and naked, shouting “Eureka!” for a totally different reason. The lawns of Syracuse would have been the most manicured in Sicily. Who says I don’t do any research!

Additionally, isn’t the fact that you can have seven or eleven blade reels spinning at blurring speed on modern mowers reason enough to ensure that quality assurance and health and safety is uppermost in the production process?

The domestic and amenity machinery industry, a multi-million contributor to Britain’s economy, deserves more than to be used as the stooge in an unrelated argument. Pick on something really pointless next time, like roller blades or virtual reality games.
Sierrablen
A range of 10 controlled release fertilizers incorporating Scotts unique resin and Poly S coating technologies in a choice of analysis, granule size and longevity to provide sustained growth, recovery and colour from 3 to 9 months.

Sierraform
A range of six slow release fertilizers incorporating Scotts unique methylene urea technology in homogeneous, mini-granular form providing quick granule breakdown and consistent growth without flushes, over a 6 to 8 week period.

Sierrasol
A range of 4 water soluble fertilizers incorporating high nutrient content analysis with trace elements and with or without soluble seaweed.

Supported by one of the largest focussed turfgrass research organisations in the world, Scotts is a leading manufacturer of controlled release, slow release and water soluble fertilizers. New technologies have been created and applied to a range that has redefined the industry standard for consistency, performance and reliability, whatever the type of golf course.

From low maintenance links and heathland to heavy wear parkland and high input USGA specification courses, Scotts have the formula for optimum turf condition - whatever the season, whatever the budget.

And we're not just about fertilizers. Scotts manufacture a range of quality spreaders led by the R-8A Professional Rotary with the exclusive Helical Cone™ regulator. Accurate and even application is guaranteed.

Add to these turf products the services we offer, including free soil analysis and fertilizer programme recommendations, and you have the complete package.

That's the Scotts Difference.

Scotts can figure it out

Whatever your type of course

The Scotts Difference

Scotts Turf & Amenity
Salisbury House, Weyside Park, Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XE.
Telephone: (0870) 6039146
They won't wriggle out of this one...

- Turf managers ‘cure-all’ with dual recommendations for the control of surface casting worms AND leatherjackets.
- Safe and effective on all turf types including fine and semi-fine turf.
- Unique formulation - simple to use.
- Proven reliability - the professionals choice for 10 years.

Castaway Plus smooths out the problem of worm casts
Lasting memory for the BIGGA library

BIGGA's library was further enhanced when Gerry Wilkins, Chairman of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association (BTIA), presented two copies of the 'Turf Irrigation Manual' to BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, during BTME. BTLIA make an annual award to selected organisations, each year, in memory of John Shidrick, who had a great influence on the development of the Association, the Turf industry and on the development of formal education within the Industry.

In thanking Gerry, Ken stated that the books would do much to help in the education and training of greenkeepers, help to develop the links between BIGGA and BTIA and to ensure that John's name would be long remembered into the future.

Parker Hart acquired by Rigby Taylor

Rigby Taylor has acquired the sales operations of its sister company, Parker Hart of Worcester Park, and will fully integrate the business in the South of England. The combined business will trade as Rigby Taylor with an immediate effect under the direction of David Morgan, Regional Managing Director of Rigby Taylor Limited. Parker Hart will continue its specialist business in machinery repair activities from its existing premises at Worcester Park, Surrey.

Various changes in management responsibilities within the Southern region of Rigby Taylor take place as part of this reorganisation. Bernard Tomlin is promoted to the position of Regional Sales Director and Rodger Bowles to Regional Field Sales Manager. Mike Ring and Chris Sharp are promoted to the position of Area Manager Clive Williams, having tendered his resignation, has left the Company to pursue other interests.

Commenting on the moves Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor said: "We are confident that by combining the sales and distribution operations of Parker Hart with those of Rigby Taylor we can further improve the already excellent service we offer to customers in the South of England and further strengthen our ability to bring innovative products to the market for both amenity turf use and industrial weed control through our relationships with the world's leading chemical companies."

Outstanding efforts rewarded at Hayter Awards dinner

The fifth Hayter Awards dinner was held on Tuesday 14th January, the eve of BTME, at the St George Hotel in Harrogate. This popular event has fast become one of the highlights on the dealer calendar with Hayter dealerships being represented from throughout the world.

Overseas guests were welcomed from Italy, Holland, Sweden and USA, and various guests from BIGGA. Executive Director of the Association, Neil Thomas, accompanied by his wife, Elaine, took time out of a busy week to attend, together with Gordon and Marion Child.

Gordon, as incoming Chairman of BIGGA presented the awards. UK Top Dealer of the Year award went, for the second time running, to Gibson Machinery Sales, with Stuart Mercer accepting the award on behalf of his company. Runner up in this category was Douglas Ewan of Poweshift.

The Overseas Award for 1997 was presented to John O'Flynn and Pat Geaney in recognition of their considerable success in Ireland with the Hayter product. The Outstanding Dealer award is always widely contested, and is presented to dealers whom Hayter feel should be recognised for their work on our behalf over the year. This opens the category up to all sizes of companies and is not judged purely on sales. This year's award went to Geo. Brown Implements, of Leighton Buzzard, with special mention to their representative, Steve Lee.

Further awards were made during the ceremony in recognition of the work and dedication on our behalf by several individuals during 1997. These were Steve George of BS Mowers in Bristol, Michael Smith from Irish Farm & Garden and Ernst Myer based in Germany.

STRI join forces with Robin Hume

STRI Ltd have formed an alliance with Robin Hume Associates to provide a comprehensive irrigation consultancy to complement their existing turf agronomy services. Irrigation has always been an important aspect of managing sports turf but with the droughts and water restrictions in recent years coupled with rising water costs, this has become a major issue for many golf clubs. The new irrigation consultancy service is particularly appropriate for golf clubs contemplating expansion or improvements to their existing systems but it will also be applicable to other sports facilities. STRI Ltd and Robin Hume Associates can provide a full appraisal of irrigation needs and the associated agronomic factors to ensure efficient and cost effective use of the water available.

Dick's Bourne free

Dick Reid, Director of Bourne Amenity, is going it alone. He explained that he has learnt a great deal about the industry over the last seven years and he believes that has enabled him to offer the range of quality products and services that the industry demand.

The trading address for Reid Amenity is: Sherre Cottage, Kilndown, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2RT. Tel/Fax: 01892 890666

Congratulations!

Derrick Johnstone, of Cardross Golf Club, has been named Student of the Year at Langside College, Derrick, 20, is currently doing his HNC in Golf Course Management at the college.

Back together...

All companies within the Inturf Group have been amalgamated and now trade as Turfgrass Services International Ltd. For more information contact Inturf, Regent Street, Pocklington,YO42 OQN Tel: 01759 304101.
Rain won't stop play

The Duke's Course at St Andrews has released information about how it improved the drainage on the course.

The site is at an altitude of 200 feet, north-east facing with a South-west prevailing wind. Formerly well over 60 years ago, arable land, the soil is predominantly by clay particles. Only fairways and surrounds of greens and tees required attention: greens and tees are constructed to USGA standards and have maximum length of 10 meters, whereas the greens were drained with 60mm of pipe at a depth of 350mm, covered by 200mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand. These trenches 30mm wide and 225mm deep filled with choker sand. Additional areas were drained with 60mm of pipe at a depth of 300mm with 200mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand.

Stage One intercepted sub-surface water and prevented water traveling into areas of play. The Duke's received hole by hole analysis and treatment: 100mm pipe was installed at a depth of 350mm, covered by 230mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand. Additional areas were drained with 60mm of pipe at a depth of 300mm with 200mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand.

Stage Two involved the digging of trenches 30mm wide and 225mm deep filled with choker sand. These "Sand-Bands" are positioned between one and two metres apart and have maximum length of 10 metres before they are intercepted by 60 - 100mm perforated drains.

The combined result: 12 month play on a course which previously would have faced significant closures due to rain. Indeed, during Winter '97 (the wettest for many years) more than 20 years both as Head Greenkeeper and in the turf management industry. His primary responsibility will be for Greenkeeper training and support, but will also encompass Landscaping, Commercial Horticulture, Floristry and BACMA Engineering.

New company launched

A new company name, but with familiar faces, was introduced for the first time to the Amenity industry at BTME, Twose Turf & Spray Limited (TTS) is a venture between Twose of Tiverton and the previous management and staff of Hardi Limited, Colin Gregory, Bill Oliver and Richard Ives.

TTS has already attracted exclusive distributorships of the Greencare range of aerators, the Rogers Windfoil, drift control spray booms and Root Zone Injectors and, from Woodbay, the Greensotron green's roller.

In addition, the company has entered into agreement with the Italian sprayer manufacturer Gambetti Barre to develop a range of specialist sprayers for the Amenity market.

Operating from a central location in the East Midlands, TTS will also be distributing the range of Twose Amenity products which have built up an enviable reputation over many years.

Commenting on this new venture, Colin Gregory, Managing Director stated, "The Amenity industry demands a better service than it has been given by companies who see it as a 'Cinderella' relation of the Agricultural market. TTS has a strategy to develop and introduce, through its network of specialist dealers, an exciting range of new products for the UK and Ireland Amenity industry."

Training initiative for Wales

A new training initiative from the Welsh College of Horticulture combines training agency skills with the academic excellence provided by the College tutorial staff.

SDA Training Limited became an integral part of the College during 1997. This partnership delivers their unparalleled expertise in training, counselling, support and assessment to form a unique link between the Welsh College of Horticulture and commercial operators in their NVQ programmes.

Heading the land-based industry section is Phil Davies N.D.T. who joins the Company from Mommersteg International, where he was Amenity Product Manager. Phil's experience spans more than 20 years both as Head Greenkeeper and in the turf management industry. His primary responsibility will be for Greenkeeper training and support, but will also encompass Landscaping, Commercial Horticulture, Floristry and BACMA Engineering.

An award with a silver lining

AT BTME Allen Power Equipment Ltd was presented with a plaque by the National Mower Company, USA, in recognition of 25 year's of National/Allen association in the UK.

National design durable grass cutting machines specifically for the golf course market and their range includes National 84 powered by a Briggs & Stratton 16hp twin "Vanguard" engine and National 68DL with a 7.5hp Kawasaki 4 cycle engine.

Peter Jefferies, Managing Director of Allen Power Equipment Ltd (Left), and Lance Bassett, Sales Director (Centre) receive a plaque from Stan Rinkead, General Manager, National Mowers, USA, (Right). The plaque marks 25 years of distribution of National mowers in the UK through Allen's national network of dealers.

Computer controlled?

Merrist Wood Golf Club has just taken delivery of the newly released Qqest Maintenance Management Software for Windows. Installation and system setup was carried out by Wessex Software Systems, the Qqest Authorised UK Dealer.

The Qqest system, which can be found at a significant number of golf clubs throughout North America and other parts of the world, was developed as a computer based system to simplify and speed up many of the facets of maintaining both equipment and facilities on a golf course.

Managing and scheduling regular maintenance tasks one of the benefits afforded by the programme. Integral with the system is both the control of inventories of spare parts and consumables and also labour costs. Other features include chemical application tracking, departmental budget management and access to electronic parts imaging systems such as Powercom, PartSmart and Plusl.

"We intend to use the Qqest system not only for running our maintenance operations at the club, but also for the College's greenkeeping students, by using the Qqest programme, will gain greater exposure to the necessary administrative aspects of greenkeeping" say Tom Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Merrist Wood.

Guy Coleman of Wessex reports that Wessex is developing a special educational establishment pricing package for Qqest Maintenance Management Software.

For further information Tel: 01798 831020

I use RiterFeed because it satisfies the needs of both myself and the course.

Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC
Are you over the limit?

Paul Bishop, Course Manager at Manor House GC, in Castle Combe, telephoned the magazine to pass on a cautionary tale which resulted from his run-in with the local constabulary.

Paul was stopped by the police as he returned to the course after filling 10 jerrycans with petrol.

"I was told that the maximum amount of petrol you are legally allowed to carry, without having"

'Hazchem' signs at the front and back of the vehicle, is one gallon," said Paul. "And these signs have to be removed when you are not carrying petrol.

"You also have to carry a fire extinguisher in the cab and have another larger one fixed to the back of the truck," he added.

Paul was allowed to carry on with no more than a warning but he has since been on a course in Petrol and Handling Petrol, while his mechanic has built a special frame for the truck which will safely hold up to 10 jerrycans and which allows them to be stripped down securely.

"We have 40 buggies at our club which all require fuel but at most golf clubs the staff often have to fill three or four jerrycans," said Paul.

"If they have been unaware of the regulations I hope that my tale will be of interest to them."

All change at Hardi UK

Nick Tremlett has been appointed as Managing Director of Hardi Limited.

"Nick will have responsibility for our UK operation and has been appointed to Hardi's Strategic Planning Executive to continue to ensure that all our UK customer requirements are integrated into our current and future product development plans, strategies and initiatives - we could not have wished for a better start for 1998," said Sten Kjelstrup, Sales and Marketing Director for Hardi International A/S.

Nick worked for Massey Ferguson for 11 years where he held Sales and Marketing positions both in the UK and overseas. Prior to leaving he was their Business Operations Manager responsible for AGCO's interests in Southern Africa.

For the past two years Nick has been working for UFB Humberclyde (the French based European Financial UFB Lacaball's subsidiary), developing their manufacturing relationships in the UK.

Summing up his reasons for joining Hardi, he said, "The opportunity of heading up Hardi Ltd is an exciting and challenging prospect, the company has established an enviable global reputation with its products and in its commitment to meet customers' requirements."

Multi-core aerator opens up the market

Multi-core has added a two metre wide model to its range of tractor-mounted aerators.

Developed to enable greenkeepers, groundstaff and contractors to carry out fast, effective aeration of large, open turf areas, the British-built MC 20 aerator complements the existing one metre and one and a half metre wide machines in the Multi Core range.

All three aerators can be equipped with a choice of solid, coring, slicing or chisel tines to suit specific turf needs and seasonal aeration requirements.

Aeration pattern is variable depending on the specific tine head and forward speed selected.

The MC 20 is able to aerate from the surface down to a maximum 125mm deep, quickly and easily and without tools on a large diameter fill width front roller. Indicator markings on the machine assist with accurate depth setting.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

Go West this April

Westurf '98, on April 29, at Long Ashton Golf Club is offering the opportunity to meet and talk with experts in many industry fields.

"The "Meet the Experts" Marquee will have representatives from Symniox, Astara, Scots, Supaturf, EBA STRI, Avoncrom, Breton Precast, BIGGA as well as Sparsholt, Hartpury, Pencoed and Cannington colleges.

The show, will also boast a wide range of machinery and equipment, a pitch and putt competition while for the first time there will be full catering and a licensed bar. Jim Arthur will also be at the show to sign copies of his book "Practical Greenkeeping" to be sold at a special exhibition price.

The show starts at 10am and runs until 4pm.

Make mine a Bailey's!

After the success of last year's golf competitions Bailey's of Norfolk have decided to hold two competitions this year. Both to be played at Royal Cromer G.C. on April 21 & August 11. Entry is free and includes a carvery meal at the evening prize giving. Each competition will be divided into 0-14 and 15 - 28 Handicap categories. Prizes for each event will be worth in excess of £500.

For further information call Bailey's on 01603 754607

New Midland Help Line

The Midland Region has set up a support group on a six month trial basis. Because of the many factors involved in forming such a project, it was thought advisable to begin with a trial which would serve as a learning time, allowing us to assess demand and costs before embarking upon further training for support group (members) for other regions.

"The formation of this project comes from the many concerns we have about the high percentage of greenkeepers who are suffering from stress as a result of pressure at work. This often has a knock-on effect, leading to more serious illness, thus affecting families and also places of work," said BIGGA Past Chairman Paddy McCarron.

"We are also aware that the demands on today's greenkeepers are many and varied and ever-increasing with all-year-round golf. People's expectations at times are too high for the greenkeeper to deal with. We are concerned because of constraints and course limitations and/or poor communications, difficulties build up. It may be that the golf club and the greenkeeper are just not compatible," explained Paddy.

"It is also a concern that too many greenkeepers are looking to change their jobs, often for the wrong reasons - they may be suffering from stress during the time that their grievances are developing. What we are saying is: Talk to us first.

"Our desire is to see more greenkeepers happy in their work and more golf clubs happy with their greenkeepers. We do not promise success - that depends on you, but we are here to talk to," said Paddy.

"The service will be totally confidential and the only cost to the caller will be that of the telephone call. Appointments will be necessary if someone wishes to talk in person.

"Thanks to A.L.S. Amenity Land Services for their financial support of this worthy cause," said Paddy.

Telephone: 0116 2739189 or 01480 437507

It suits my course

Alastair Tough, Muckhart GC

I use

RiveFood

because

It suits my course

March 1999 Greenkeeper International 9
Seaweed success for Maxicrop

Maxicrop launched ProGreen Spi, a formulation of Seaweed Extract, iron (6%), nitrogen (2%) and a Spray Pattern Indicator at BTME. This new product is recommended for use prior to tournaments to provide a rapid green-up response, or when long-term in-season greening is required.

Containing a non-staining Spray Pattern Indicator, ProGreen Spi ensures that the spray operator can apply an easily seen, uniform and consistent spray pattern on the turf.

As a Plant Growth Stimulant, Maxicrop ProGreen Spi will assist in restoring the natural microbial population balance in the soil and, when applied as part of a Plant Growth Management programme, will 'kick start' turf growth, boosting health and vigour, additionally, applications of ProGreen Spi will impart a natural 'green-up' appearance to the turf and promote the growth hardening process.

For further information Tel: 01536 402182

Early bird set to fly down under

Ten years of unfailing service to Turfland was recognised on the retirement of George Slobon from the company.

Having never had a day of sick in his time at the company time cards prove that he clocked in at 7.02am every morning for his 7.30am start and he took a genuine pride in his work.

With daughter about to give birth to twins in New Zealand the retirement present of two return tickets Down Under, for himself and his wife Joan, could not have been more welcome.

The tickets along with other gifts were presented to George by Janet Watmore of Turfland.

New soil reliever from Huxley

Huxley's new Soil Reliever 72 makes vertical deep tine aeration a much faster and easier and more economical operation.

Like the successful Soil Reliever 60, the Model 72 requires a 35hp tractor, and yet its maximum output is 20,000 square foot per hour - almost 50% more than the Model 60.

The 72" operating width covers most tractor tyre tracks, and makes the Soil Reliever 72 an ideal aerator for larger areas such as sportsfields and golf course fairways - but without the need for a large tractor.

Although a heavy duty machine, the Soil Reliever 72 is also gentle enough to aerate greens, where a clean, immaculate finish can be achieved.

Easy adjustments and low maintenance requirements are important features of the machine. Even the tine operating depth is simple to adjust by control of the optional hydraulic top link from the driver's seat.

For further information Tel: 01962 735222.