

Trade News

New Developments from Mommersteeg

MOMMERSTEEG INTERNATIONAL have introduced two new grass varieties.

MAJESTIC — a new breed of perennial ryegrass which should meet the demands of both groundsmen and landscape architects alike. As well as displaying the essential qualities of a top class variety such as rapid germination and establishment and outstanding resistance to hard wear, Majestic also enjoys other features such as low mowing requirement, fineness of leaf, retention of its dark colour throughout the year, drought tolerance and ease of mowing.

MONCORDE — is claimed to be Britain's greatest advance in fine leafed turfgrass. This versatile, fine-leafed creeping red fescue has many outstanding features including fast establishment, dense compact growth, a rich and deep colour throughout the

year, resistance to wear and versatility and adaptability.

Mommersteeg have published five new leaflets: a new mixture list detailing Mommersteeg blends for bowling greens, cricket, football and rugby pitches, golf courses, playing fields, race courses, stadiums and ornamental and open space areas as well as special mixtures for problem areas and mixtures containing wild flower and herb seeds;

“perennial ryegrass blends for sports turf and amenity use” which traces the development of perennial ryegrasses up to the latest introduction of special blends of certified varieties to meet specific turfgrass needs; and these three exclusive Mommersteeg varieties - “STADION” Britain's most widely used perennial ryegrass, “MONCORDE” a new creeping red fescue claimed to be the greatest advance in fine leafed turfgrass and “MAJESTIC”, Mommersteeg's latest perennial ryegrass which will meet the demands of both groundsmen and landscape architects alike.

2nd BRITISH TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

On behalf of The British Golf Greenkeepers Association, I would like to thank the Chairman, Speakers, Co-Sponsors, Symposium Committee, Delegates and Management of the Burford Bridge Hotel for making the 2nd British Turfgrass Symposium on October 5th such a Happy and Successful Event.

WALTER HEELES
Hon. Secretary B.G.G.A.

EDITORS NOTE: A report on the symposium will be published in the next issue.

Toro Machines start on £3m Belfry Courses

A WIDE RANGE of Toro grasscutting and golf course maintenance equipment has now been delivered to help prepare the £3m Belfry Golf and Hotel Complex, at Sutton Coldfield, for its opening next Spring.

The Belfry complex, which includes two championship courses, covers 340 acres. It will be the new headquarters of the Professional Golfers' Association.

Two Toro Greensmaster 3 triple-cylinder ride-on greensmowers spearhead the range of equipment. Equipment supplied to the Belfry also includes a complete set of Greensmaster 3 greens' care and maintenance attachments for de-thatching, spiking and slitting, as well as a trailer unit.

Three pedestrian-operated 21in. Toro Greensmasters with brush attachments are also included in the greens' cutting fleet to provide additional support at tournament periods.

Maintenance of the extensive fairways and semi-rough grass areas will be undertaken by two purpose-built Toro Parkmaster tractor units with combinations of 30in. gang mower units which can be raised or lowered hydraulically from the driving seat. A diesel tractor with a cab for operator comfort is fitted with seven Spartan 5 gang units for fairways, while a petrol engined tractor has been fitted with five 30in. Roughmaster cutters for use in semi-rough areas.

The cutting of tees, aprons and bunker surrounds will be the task of triple cylinder ride-on machines - an 81in. Super Pro supported by a Toro 70in. Teemaster with grass collection.

United Kingdom distributor for Toro equipment is Autoturfcare Limited, of Faverdale West, near Darlington.

New Specialist Turf Care Firm

AUTOTURFCARE LIMITED, based at the Faverdale West Industrial Estate, near Darlington, has been formed (September 1) to provide a specialised service to professional and private users of turf maintenance equipment.

A national network of dealers will handle a range of turf and grass maintenance equipment backed by first-class after-sales service. Further dealers are being appointed.

Equipment immediately available from the United States includes institutional and domestic machines manufactured by the Toro Company, and tractors and implements from the Gravelly Corporation.

Both firms' products are already well established in the United Kingdom market.

Introduction of complementary products is planned.

Autoturfcare Managing Director Mr Bert Jennings has been in charge of the Toro Division of Flymo Limited, which marketed Toro equipment in the United Kingdom, since 1966. In collaboration with The Toro Company it was agreed that the Toro franchise in the United Kingdom be taken over by Autoturfcare Limited.

Mr. Jennings reports that the new company will meet the urgent need for efficient and reliable quality products to contain increasing costs of grass maintenance.

Hub of the Autoturfcare operation is the 25,000 sq. ft. office, workshop, parts and warehouse facilities at the Faverdale West Industrial Estate.

Autoturfcare introduced two new models at the 1976 IOG exhibition at Motspur Park.

Both models, the Toro 84in. Hydraulic Triplex and the Toro

Groundsmaster 52, will be available for the 1977 season.

The mid-sized Groundsmaster 52 triple rotary is designed to provide high work-rate cutting of areas up to 18 acres a day, but extreme manoeuvrability makes it eminently suitable to mow and trim areas of an acre or less.

The new machine features hydrostatic drive with single pedal control for both forward and reverse. This was a major aspect for widespread acceptance in the United Kingdom of the larger Toro Groundsmaster 72 by large institutional users and contractors.

The versatile 84in. Hydraulic Triplex has a height of cut adjustment between 3/8 in and 2½in. enabling it to be used in a wide variety of situations.

Substantial Grass Seed Price Increase expected

TWYFORD SEEDS LIMITED, are warning sports and amenity grass seed users that they can expect a substantial increase in many grass seed prices in 1977.

Mr Barry Gill, Head of Herbage at Twyford Seeds said that the surplus grass seed both in the U.K., and on the Continent has been rapidly eroded. Denmark had a major problem with grass seed surpluses which have been sold at very low prices. However, due to increased domestic and foreign usage, the surplus has been very much reduced and prices are rising daily. The current U.S. market is also very buoyant.

The growers prices of last year did not meet the expectations of grass seed producers and there has been a substantial decrease in the acreage of seed for 1976 harvesting. This is particularly true of the perennial ryegrasses.

The drought has hit the grass seed producer as much as the grass user. Yields of grass seed have generally been well below average.

Mr. Gill pointed out that grass seed for sale 1976 must all be E.E.C. Certified (or the equivalent). "This", said Mr. Gill, "will also lead to some price increase as certification is costly and the low grade uncertified seed, which is comparatively inexpensive, will not be available".

Mr. Jonathan Franks, Head of the Sports Turf Division of Twyford Seeds said that the demand for grass seed had been very high following the recent rain. "Most grassland has been affected by the drought. Newly sown spring seeds never took in many cases and even established grassland has become very patchy. Many people are direct seeding to improve their grassland and demand for seed has been tremendous, especially for purpose bred amenity varieties such as Manhattan".

"Already grass prices have had to be increased as replacement costs soar" said Mr. Franks, "and the high demand, coupled with a shortage of supply, is bound to push prices up even more".

Twyford say that grass seed purchasers should be very careful in their selection of seeds as many mixtures could contain a high proportion of less suited varieties in order to keep the cost of mixtures down. This, they say, could lead to a real dissaving where maintenance costs are drastically increased.

Canadian G.S.A. meet Ransomes

DURING A TOUR OF North America which included visits to distributors in Miami, San Francisco, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, Guy Catch-

pole, general marketing manager of Ransomes grass machinery division, took the opportunity to have discussions with members of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

A C.G.S.A. team will be in the U.K. in October to compete in the second International Golf Tournament for golf greenkeepers and Superintendents which is being organised by the



RANSOMES, who have marketed the Hahn Tournament Triplex at home and overseas since 1972 have decided to manufacture this highly successful machine and its accessories at their Ipswich factory.

This will be the first Triple Greens Mower manufactured in Europe, and it will incorporate the high standards of engineering associated with Ransomes products.

This addition to Ransomes range means the Ipswich company has taken a further step, consolidating its position as the largest manufacturer of professional grass machinery in Europe.

Spare parts for the American built Hahn machine will continue to be available from Ipswich through Ransomes distributor network.

British Golf Greenkeepers Association at Walton Heath.

The C.G.S.A. delegation will also attend the second British Turfgrass Symposium at Burford Bridge Hotel on October 5th.

The picture shows (left to right) Guy Catchpole with Keith Nisbett, Jim Wyllie, Bob Heron, Dave Gourlay, who is co-editor of the Greenmaster and Dave Bassett.

PENNINE COMPOST CO. LTD. of Gauxhole Warehouse, Bacup Road, Todmorden, Lancs. was formed in 1968 to cope with increased demand for John Innes Compost. Each year improvements have been made to the product and Pennine now regard themselves as one of the leading manufacturers in the field. Sales of standard J.I.C. No. 1 and 2 to Golf Clubs have shown the different specification required by Greenkeepers to many other users. The somewhat primitive methods of soil screening still being used decided Pennine to cater for the needs of golf courses with a soil based dressing which can include an organic or chemical fertilizer and to reduce their screen size to $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

MAY & BAKER have produced a four colour brochure illustrating turf weeds and diseases and suggesting means of controlling them. It also contains useful Imperial to Metric conversion charts for distances, area, mass and liquid. It can be obtained free of charge by writing to Horticulture Sales Department, May & Baker Ltd., Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS.