

NOTEBOOK...

Bright idea comes to Britain

A REMARKABLE new French invention, developed for the fast and efficient removal of tree stumps, is now available in the United Kingdom from Charterhouse Turf Machinery Limited, the Surrey-based machinery specialists.

The Becker Tree Stump Remover is the result of 25 years' practical experience, and offers a number of important benefits.

- * It completes in minutes a task which normally takes hours.
- * It removes the entire stump and roots, leaving the soil in an immaculate condition.
- * Its proficiency means that a new tree can be planted immediately after removal - and with no residual disease risks.
- * It can deal even with up-rooted stumps - a major problem in the south of England last October.
- * Its adaptability enables it to work equally well in what would normally be considered inaccessible locations.

This revolutionary development works like a super-efficient hybrid wood chisel and saw. Instead of attempting to uproot the tree stump, it speedily removes successive wood chips, thus eliminating the disadvantages of



traditional grubbing methods.

The tree stump may either be removed entirely, or simply taken down to a depth of around 45cm. In either case only the stump is touched - the surrounding soil levels and adjacent areas are not disturbed.

After deracination the wood chips can then be re-cycled. Contractors and other major

users will be able to mount the machine onto plastic Caterpillar-type tracking to protect road surfaces and fine turfed areas. The unique design features enable it to be used in areas with restricted access including embankments, steep slopes, river banks, on marshy ground, between tombs in cemeteries and behind low walls and fences.



Facelift for Lawn Ranger for 1988

NOW entering its third year of production, the 58" Allen Lawn Ranger has undergone a facelift for 1988.

The new look machine now has mudguards over the front wheels and new handlebars, and also features new type easy height adjustment.

The machine is now only available with 8hp Briggs engine.

Prices are £1,995 plus VAT for the recoil and £2,395 plus VAT for electric starting.

NOTEBOOK...

The ultimate in safety blades

A REVOLUTIONARY safety cutting blade for rotary mowers, for use in the first instance on our petrol range of Air Cushion Mowers, has been developed by Allen Power Equipment at Didcot.

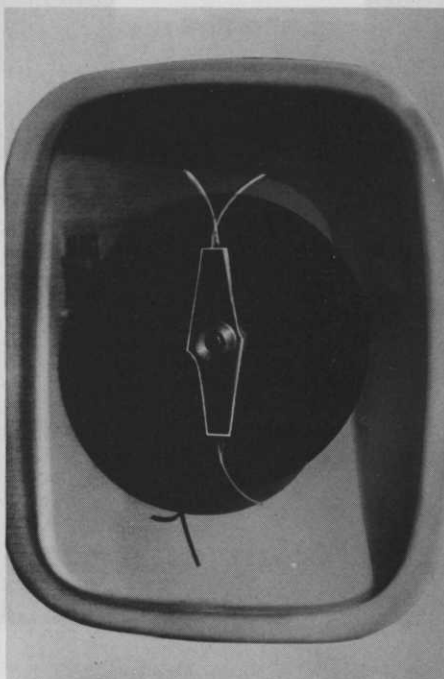
Called the Allen "Safeway" Mowing System, the manufacturers claim it is the ultimate in safety blades.

Their tennis ball test - a ball is thrown under the hood with the machine operating and then ejected in perfect condition - has to be seen to be believed. The blade uses the nylon line cutting principle first introduced into the UK by the company in the early 70's.

Due to the line being protected by the hood of the machine, minimal wear is experienced and the 3mm line far outlasts that used in the more conventional way, such as a brushcutter. Should the operator's foot go under the hood, no damage is sustained. Likewise when used on the electric machines it will not cut the electric cable.

The body of the new blade is made from nylon, a very tough yet lightweight material, whilst the actual cutting is done by 3mm cutting line replaceable in seconds.

For the 1988 cutting season,



The new safety blade

the blade will be available only for Allen petrol hover mowers, but development is taking place, so the Safeway blade can be fitted to all non-collecting petrol rotary mowers and our electric machines.

Designed as a result of a request from a public authority for a safer way of cutting steep banks with hover mowers, there new Safeway Mowing System is the first safety blade to be designed primarily for petrol mowers.

Retail price is £9.95 inc. VAT.

Joint venture aimed for perfection

AT the end of April, SISIS (Macclesfield) Ltd., May and Baker and Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies joined in presenting two demonstration/lecture days under the title "Aiming for Perfection". Around 160 people attended the two days at the Northumberland College of Agriculture and the BAC Club in Preston.

SISIS demonstrated a large number of machines for turf maintenance including the Hydromain system and the latest additions to the range of attachments, the Quadraplay and the new Hydrocore Fine Turf Aerator. Particular interest was shown in the new large diameter hollow tines for thatch removal.

May and Baker gave a very informative illustrated talk on turf diseases and chemical control with particular reference to the new pesticide regulations.

To complete the day's programme Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies demonstrated a selection of machines from their wide and comprehensive range of grass cutters, showing a variety of models for different types of sports surface.

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NOTEBOOK...

Guernseyman defects to Effingham Park!

A GUERNSEYMAN, Christopher Nicolle, has been appointed to the new post of estate manager at Effingham Park, on the Surrey-Sussex border, near Gatwick Airport.

Mr Nicolle will take over responsibility for the development and upkeep of the 40 acres of mature lawns, gardens and trees, including the nine hole golf course which has been a feature of the park for the last nine years.

Mr Nicolle is a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and is a member of The Men of the Trees and BIGGA. He is an Honorary Member of the Scottish Greenkeepers Association.

Effingham Park's grounds were originally developed more than 150 years ago. They fea-

SEA NYMPH is a finely ground seaweed meal produced by drying and grinding the seaweed while at the same time preserving all its valuable fertilising properties. The seaweed, which is harvested along the west coast of Ireland, is free of contaminants such as weed seeds, can easily be spread by mechanical means.

Sea Nymph seaweed meal is totally organic, and 50% of its composition is humus forming material.

It stimulates the plant's activity leading to better root development and an increased uptake of nutrients.

Cytokinins is one of the more

important growth promotion hormones present in seaweed and it is known that this hormone causes cell division and aids the transport of nutrients, such as phosphate. Cytokinins are critical for successful pollination.

As seaweed contains all the trace elements and minerals required in a fertiliser, plants and grasses become more resistant to disease and stress with regular use, and will resist frost down to - 1.5 degrees C.

Seaweed has a high water holding capacity for light soils and by improving soil texture, prevents water-logging in heavy soils.

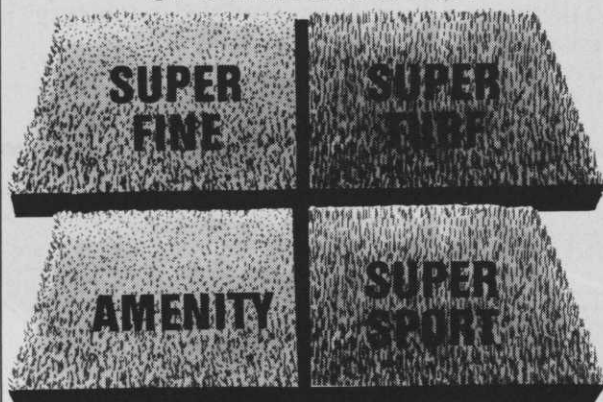
ture fine mature Wellingtonia trees planted then to celebrate the British Victory at Waterloo.

A 122 bedroomed luxury hotel, health club and the gourmet Wellingtonia restaurant are

nearing completion at Effingham Park and are due to open in late summer. They will complement the existing conference and function centre which opened 11 years ago.

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NOTEBOOK...

SEVERAL products were demonstrated at the recent John Shaw Open Day, including the main line TORO machines. First to be put through its paces was the Groundsmaster 220D, a recent addition to the TORO stable. This 3 cylinder diesel engine machine is highly manoeuvrable and inevitably is fast gaining praise within its marketplace. The 52" or 62" optional discharge cutter decks are an addition to the range, and a unique flotation system ensures improved ground following.

The Flagship of the TORO range, the reelmaster 450D, was also demonstrated. This high output all-hydraulic mower powered by a 50hp Mitsubishi engine with power steering travels up to 15mph and will mow up to 10.5 acres per hour. 5 or 7 bladed cutting cylinders are available and the heads can be either fixed or floating.

Within the TORO selection of Lely the New Reform-Metrac 4-wheel drive tractor unit has been added to the range to



Toro products on show

enhance and complement the existing TORO products. The Metrac is a 38hp 4-wheel steer unit which is ideally suited for banks and difficult terrain work, which can be fitted with flails or rotaries or any other front or rear mounted attachment. The unique feature of this machine is the instant availability of 4-wheel steer, front wheel or indeed crab steer which allows the operator to have both axles going in the

same direction so when working on a steep slope the driver can work away from a wall or fence without getting stuck against it. There is a rear three point linkage which allows additional use of implements on the back. This tough, yet quiet, 3 cylinder diesel with an output of 30 plus HP has a reversible gearbox with 8 forward and 8 reverse gears, ensuring ease of operation.

Appointments

FOLLOWING five years as an area representative with the well-known horticultural dealer Henton & Chattell, 33 year old Mark Redford has been appointed Ransomes grass machinery representative for the East Midlands and North East England.

JOINING Ransomes as a Grass Machinery Technical Representative, 27 year old Michael Prentice had previously been a service engineer with a well known landscape contractor.

After leaving school, Michael joined the Amenity Dept of Kent County Council as a trainee and attended the Mid Kent College of Technology.

JACOBSEN have appointed Stuart Jeffs as area sales manager, and he will operate on the east side of the country.

Formerly employed selling horticultural and domestic grass equipment as well as a wide range of turf machinery including Jacobsen.

Stuart has a background of sales engineering, and experience in turf culture.

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NOTEBOOK...

Ride-on with Huxleys!



HUXLEYS Grass Machinery is well known as the importer and main distributor for the Cushman Turfcare System. It is a family business justly proud of its achievements and expansion over the last decade, which has seen the company move into the manufacture of accessories for the Cushman and the production of seven different kinds of hydraulic reel mowers. All of this expansion has been self financed, growth having been achieved alongside maintained profitability. Huxleys have only a small research and development team headed by Eddie Fox, but four years ago they started to tackle the design of a ride-on greensmower. The result is the "358" 3 cutting units with a width of 58 inches, to be launched at the IOG Exhibition at Windsor. The machine incorporates a number of features which are a direct result of comments and suggestions received from greenkeepers. The "358" is a basic no frills machine as

many greenkeepers feel that sophistication has gone too far. Being a diesel (Kubota z600 two cylinder) it is very economic and surprisingly quiet, the cutting reels making more noise than the engine. The drive is to the front wheels, but the single rear wheel has power assisted steering. Huxleys reckon to price the machine at a little over £10,000.

The machine comes with a choice of cutting units, the standard being an eight bladed reel adjustable from 1/8 to 1/2 inch. Drive to the reels is fully hydraulic by orbital type motors fitted direct to the end of each reel. All the units are interchangeable. There is a single lever control for cutting units lift/lower and reels rotate/stop. Up to 140 cuts per yard can be made at 2mph.

Grass boxes are fibre glass and feature an integral grab handle.

For further details contact Huxleys Grass Machinery at The Dean, New Alresford, Hants, SO24 9BL Tel: 0962 733222

BIGGA's marquee at this year's Openwill include a display by the five English colleges recommended by the greenkeeper training committee: namely, Reaesheath, Askham Bryan, Cannington, Plumpton, Sparshalt. College personnel will be in attendance.

Landscape Industries '88

THIS new exhibition at the National Agricultural centre at Stoneleigh attracted considerable support both from exhibitions and visitors. Split into indoor and outdoor working stands, all concerned voted the two days a great success. Stoneleigh has a great deal to offer the visitor and its location means a large catchment area.

The working exhibits were most impressive, especially the earth moving and cultivation equipment.

Inside it was particularly pleasing to see the educational side of the industry well represented. "Landscape Industries" will no doubt be bigger in '89.

TENSIOMETERS as featured in our May issue can be obtained from Van Walt Ltd., 108 Blackdown Rural Industries, Haste Hill, Haslemere, Surrey. GU27 3AY (0428) 54304.

Privileged!

BRITISH SEED HOUSES LTD were privileged to supply all the grass used on the new Jack Nicklaus Golf Course which has been constructed over the past three years at the St. Mellion Golf & County Club, Saltash, Cornwall. This superb course has been sown with Pencross Creeping Bent on the greens and Penneagle Creeping Bent on the tees. The greens are in perfect condition for the official opening with British Seed Houses A12 Fairway Grass seed mixture which is based on their top rated Frida Chewings Fescue, which has been used on a number of major golf course projects in recent years.

NTC Secretary nearly full time!

JOHN SHILDRICK on his retirement from the Sports Turf Research Institute will become the virtual full time secretary of the National Turfgrass Council, a role he has previously held in an honorary capacity. Speaking at a Patrons lunch at Stoneleigh during the highly successful 'Landscapes Industries '88' exhibition, Howard

Swan the NTC Chairman, outlined future plans for the full time secretariat, additional seminars and wider distribution of the NTC newsletter. Responding on behalf of the founding Patrons, Keith Cleverly of ICI congratulated Mr Shildrick on his appointment and the Chairman on the progress the council had made.