

said Mr Hawkins, "We can offer the dealers and users we serve the opportunity to view, test drive and evaluate the products we sell as well as training and supporting them with a wide range of educational courses for the user, salesmen and fitters.

Johnsons launch Jupiter to replace imports of creeping red fescue

"The best new cultivar to have reached the sports and amenity grass sector for many years" – that is the description applied by Johnsons Seeds to Jupiter, an outstanding fine-leaved cultivar of the slender creeping red fescue group, which was introduced by the company towards the end of June. The first product of Johnsons' amenity grass breeding programme and launched after 15 years of assessment, commercial development and trials, Jupiter offers all the attributes which sports people and amenity turf managers look for in a cultivar, notably: Bright emerald green and distinctive strong winter colours; uniform and compact low growth for low maintenance and fewer heads; compactness – Jupiter has higher shoot numbers per unit than many other Chewings fescues, thus giving extra density and resistance to wear and weeds; tolerance to drought in summer and cold in winter; disease resistance, particularly to red thread and dollar spot, where it has proved to be more resistant than other leading cultivars, bred and produced in Britain.

Entered into trials by the Sports Turf Research Institute in 1984, Jupiter is currently the only cultivar to have been

awarded five 'A' ratings for compactness, freedom from red thread, freedom from dollar spot, greenness in summer and greenness in winter. The new cultivar received 'B' ratings for 5mm mowing and short growth.

Trials carried out by Johnsons between 1983 and 1987, in which Jupiter was compared with leading cultivars of slender creeping red fescue, plus the widely-used commercial stong creeping fescue Boreal, showed the new cultivar to be well in advance of other varieties.

Assessments were made covering colour, texture, density and disease-resistance on a 0-9 basis. Jupiter merged as the top cultivar with an overall score of 7.17.

Disease-resistance was rated on an A-D scale with only two varieties achieving a pair of 'A's for red thread and dollar spot, Jupiter being one of them.

Plant breeders rights were granted to Johnsons for the UK/EEC and North America in 1985 and it is now Johnsons' declared aim to build up seed production in the UK, avoiding the scarcities which are experienced with some contemporaries of Jupiter.

The company have pledged that, by increasing the number of growers and the acreage of Jupiter, supply will keep pace with demand and there will be enough seed available to satisfy current and future needs.

In fact, the acreage of Jupiter this year will exceed the total UK acreage of creeping red fescues in 1986, while in 1990 production will be triple that amount.

Johnsons are recommending that Jupiter should be a component of the major mix-

tures for fine turf and they are including it as a key cultivar in their mixtures for areas such as cricket squares, golf greens, tennis courts and bowling greens.

Such is the versatility of the cultivar, however, that mixtures are also being marketed for golf fairways, cricket outfield, shaded areas, embankments and general purpose applications.

The source material for Jupiter was selected from a natural turf area in the south of England. Parental clones have been retained to ensure that Jupiter will remain uniform and stable for commercial production.

Derek Whelbourn, director of Johnsons' wholesale division, commented: "There can be no doubt that Jupiter adds a new dimension to the options which are available to anybody with an interest in sports and amenity turf. It is a truly outstanding new cultivar – we have called it Jupiter because we believe it is out of this world – and we are very proud to have produced such a fine cultivar from our amenity grass breeding programme."

The current value of the UK amenities seed market is placed at between £15 million - £20 million with a demand for some 5000 tons a year. The domestic market is about 1/2 of this again, giving a total UK seed market of 7500 tons. Johnsons share of this is claimed to be 25 per cent and with the launch of Jupiter the company forecasts this share will rise rapidly as domestic production begins to replace import of creeping red fescue. Material grown on British farms is estimated to be 200 tons, about 10% of the total imports of this variety.

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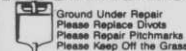


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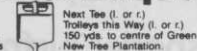
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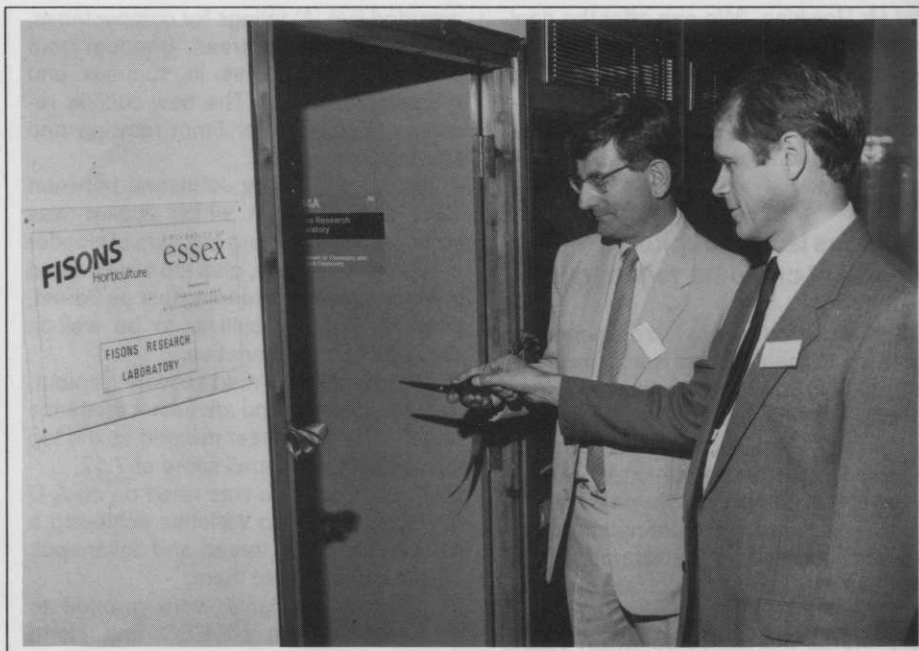
Fisons lecturer in pesticide chemistry

Fisons Horticulture Division has signed an agreement, valued at £90,000 over three years, with the University of Essex to establish the post of Lecturer in Pesticide Chemistry, together with supporting laboratory facilities.

The Horticulture Division of Fisons plc sells the extensive Murphy range of pesticides on the UK home and garden market. In addition, Fisons Horticulture has a specialist pesticide range for the professional horticulture industry, including products such as the Fungicides Filex, Basilex and Turfclear.

Under the new agreement, the appointee will lecture within the University of Essex to established courses and carry out pesticide research to the benefit of both Fisons and the University.

Dr Roger Turner, research and development director of Fisons Horticulture, said, "We are delighted to be able to establish this lectureship and the extra laboratory facilities here at the University of Essex.



Dr Roger Turner (right), Fisons Research and Development Director and Professor M. Harris, Vice Chancellor, University of Essex.



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£38 million a year spent on maintaining British courses

The total annual cost of maintaining Britain's golf courses is currently running at £38 million. This is a massive increase of nearly 25 per cent compared with the £30 million spent in 1986. The total excludes labour costs at £66 million which also compared to 1986 shows an increase of nearly 25 per cent.

The expenditure by clubs now on maintaining the golf course indicates a big swing towards the improvement of playing conditions to the attitude just three years ago.

The total acreage of land utilised in 1989 as golf courses in Britain is estimated at 287,130 acres (114,852 hectares) and of this area nearly 66 per cent is maintained and mown regularly. The South East accounts for the most land used for golf with 28 per cent of the total followed predictably by Scotland with 23 per cent, and Northern England with 18.5 per cent.

The figures have just been released from the UK Golf Course survey 1989 which shows the average wage of a head greenkeeper has risen by £1,500 since 1986. The national average annual pay for a head greenkeeper is now £8,630 - a figure however that falls well below the recommended scales of pay just issued by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association of £13,409.

The survey was conducted by Turf Management and is published this month. It shows that each club budgets for an annual capital expenditure and while this varies from year to year the information provides an accurate figure to the amount being spent in buying new equipment or

replacing worn out machinery. In the South East golf clubs spend an average of £16,000 a year compared with clubs in Wales which record a meagre £2,400 a year. A national average however indicates that £16.4 million, a rise of 15 per cent, is spent on new machinery by clubs annually.

The most popular manufacturer supplying equipment to the golf course industry is Ransomes although a majority of clubs indicated they used equipment from more than three suppliers.

John Deere and Iseki were two companies that featured in this analysis while Toro holds an estimated national share of 18.4 per cent, other firms showing a significant market share were Sisis 14.8 per cent, Cushman 11.4 per cent and Jacobsen with 10.2 per cent. The Jacobsen share of the market shows a significant increase and is nearly double the figure reported in the 1986 survey.

Another company who has seemingly made impact on the British golf course market is Kubota. This company now holds an estimated 6 per cent share of the machinery and equipment sector compared with 1986 when it featured only in the 'others' category. While Kubota claim to be the largest supplier of compact tractors in Britain the dominant market position for golf is held by Massey Ferguson and Ford.

The total average expenditure on pesticides is calculated at £5.9 million which indicates that golf clubs have a major requirement for these materials. The amount consumed for the golf course market is a significant proportion of the total amount of pesticides used in amenity horticulture.

Golf clubs also spend a considerable amount on fertilizer with the survey showing a total of £3.1 million spent annually. This is a considerable increase of some 38 per cent. The region spending the most on fertilizers is the South East followed by the North. Clubs in East Anglia use the lowest amount of the whole country with only £835 spent annually.

Copies of the market survey are available at a price of £155. All enquiries should be sent to TURF MANAGEMENT, 201-205 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 7PB

Golf Course Europe

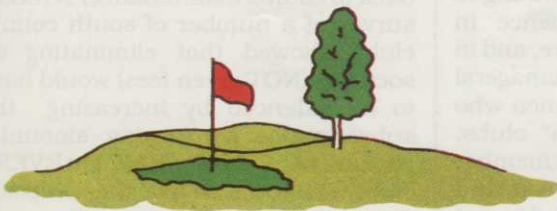
Interest has been considerable, especially from continental clubs after the announcement that Expoconsult are organising a conference and trade show in Weisbaden 4-6 October. The event is for golf course managers and greenkeepers together with others from the golf course construction and maintenance industry.

The conference programme will cover such diverse topics as Irrigation, Golf Course Maintenance principles, Public Courses, Financing of new course, Club House Architecture and infrastructure. All lectures will be delivered in the English language with a simultaneous translation into French and German. The exhibition is expected to attract thousands of trade visitors from all over Europe who will visit the stand of over seventy exhibitors. All available know-how products and technology will be on display.

For further details contact: Expoconsult, P.O.Box 200, 3600 AE Maarssen, The Netherlands. Tel: + + 31 3465 73777.

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Big shortage of good course managers

As more and more golf courses are being built in Britain and Europe Jim Arthur expresses his concern that many will suffer because of the shortage of good, well qualified managers

It is not only in golf greenkeeping that concern is being expressed about the effects of 'traffic' on sports turf. One sees comments in the tennis world from such a respected head groundsman as Jim Thorn at the All England Club that management techniques have not kept abreast of the effects of stress and pressures from play and that unqualified, unskilled people are put in charge of court maintenance at many Clubs, merely because they had been club professionals. The same applies to cricket - where criticisms are made of wickets not standing up to increased traffic, again because techniques have not kept pace with the effect of extra traffic.

However, it would be neither appropriate nor wise to venture into such areas in a golf greenkeeping Magazine! We have enough problems of our own.

In generalising about trends, it must always be taken into account that the excellent condition of the relatively few courses in improving condition which not only have withstood all the effects of misguided policies of the past two decades but also the effect of increased play and wear caused by two relatively mild and certainly open winters, may make a dispassionate assessment difficult. Equally the appalling condition of our worst courses - I will not venture into assessing what proportion of the total they constitute and certainly not to identify them! - nor to mention the number of courses where greens are shut for weeks on end in winter, or even, as in some, members being condemned to temporary greens and playing off mats ALL winter, may induce too pessimistic an approach!

How many times have I stressed that there is no more important person on any golf course than its head man.

Those in long term charge of member

clubs especially must accept that they are very, very vulnerable since there is a desperate shortage of experienced trained and skilled head men and this situation will get worse. This is exacerbated by many factors.

First and foremost, any sensible employers (in whatever industry, and golf today is certainly an industry!) make sure (or should do) that their indispensable key men are so well looked after - not just financially and with pension schemes but in the esteem in which they are held, - that they are almost 'unpoachable'. Therefore there is a reduced availability of senior men looking for better prospects. Secondly, by the historical accident that so many Greenkeepers came back after the War from the Forces, equally many will be retiring at the same time. Parallel with this, of course, is the decline in numbers of school leavers making it imperative that greenkeeping sells itself as a respected, well paid profession with excellent opportunities to Careers officers and others responsible for guiding our BEST school leavers into greenkeeping - instead of, as in earlier decades, regarding it as a last option for those "wanting an outdoor life" - often synonymous sadly with the description "strong in the arm and thick in the head".

The main threat comes, of course, from the new courses being built as part of hotel and leisure complexes, or by developers both in Britain and Europe. Such bodies know they have to poach and are more than willing to do so, having long experience in paying the going rate and more, and in treating their managers as managers! The relief of those excellent men who have moved from members' clubs, where every upstart or novice member feels qualified to criticize them and where Captains playing off 20 and

worse, regard themselves as having a God given right to fire good men, just because a long serving experienced head man reckons he knows rather more than the Captain about greenkeeping, is illuminating!

At a conservative guess we are going to need some 500 head men in the next decade (or less), if current estimates of new course projects are even half accurate. On top of this we need back-up trained staff replacement of retirees.

When 'labour' is in short supply wages escalate - and this has been true ever since the Black Death. If 'member clubs' whose parrot cry to any attempt to lead them into the twentieth century is to vote down any increase in subscriptions and who claim to own as well as have the right to run their club - whereas in truth they are merely temporary custodians for future generations, - fail to respond to this financial pressure, they will soon find they have only second class greenkeepers, trainees, or those stalwarts motivated by loyalty, love of their course or reluctance to move, to look after their courses.

The problem of finance has induced Treasurers to increasingly encourage and rely on societies - not all of whom are proficient players. Whilst this revenue, which sometimes exceeds the total of members' subscriptions, may balance the books it is not free! In fact, wear is disproportionately higher and an appreciable proportion of this revenue ought, but rarely is, diverted back to course maintenance. A recent survey of a number of south county clubs showed that eliminating all societies (NOT green fees) would have to be balanced by increasing the subscriptions by varying amounts, generally £50-£100 p.a. Yet in EVERY club, members voted the proposal down, often overwhelmingly. Too mean

LOOKING AHEAD

to pay an extra £1 a week to enjoy more fully their own club's facilities! It defies belief!

So much for the problem - what of solutions? Obviously the first priority must be to see that GOOD men are proportionately rewarded - and provided with pensions and other perquisites but also to see that they are treated as skilled professional managers - if they are! Failure by their employers to regard school teachers as being a respected and worthwhile profession is far more behind their present discontent than mere salary levels.

Secondly we need better and more intensive education. Whilst there are VERY few colleges teaching good greenkeeping, we are in general training no more GOLF greenkeepers in a year, than we were a decade earlier. What is worse is that in many cases they are not being trained in any way differently than 20 years ago - it is only the skill and devotion of a mere handful of dedicated college lecturers interpreting and re-thinking an outmoded and often totally wrong syllabus in order to meet today's problems, which prevents the whole education scheme being a fiasco. This is why it is so depressing for a meeting of college lecturers convened to discuss standardising, modernising or interpreting the City and Guilds syllabus to dismiss my pleas with the words "you are not going to do a Baker on us".

Seminars do not address themselves to current problems, the chief of which is the effect of traffic, but waste time and money inviting speakers from the other side of the Atlantic. Many of them have ideas which (however relevant they are, and this is sometimes debatable, to their own special conditions) are totally irrelevant not only to Northern European conditions but are (as one of the USGA Green Section's Agronomists told me when he stayed with me this year), equally irrelevant to most of the States also. We waste vast sums, not only in copying the mistakes made earlier, but in research, to PROVE wrong what we have known to be wrong for years. PURE sand greens (not a 'sand soil' mix) designed to take the massive irrigation required under arid, very hot conditions and where extreme heat kills off any invading meadow grass have no relevance to our conditions. If these 'hydroponic' greens are not fed NPK they die and if they are, they degenerate at once to annual meadow grass.

There is insufficient 'post graduate' training for skilled men - really only

two satisfactory 5 day courses, once a year and always over-subscribed. The money is there as never before but there are too many debates about how it is to be used and too much dilution of resources. Frankly, greenkeeping education has by and large stagnated, since those optimistic days when we thought we could standardise curricula and concentrate education at a few controllable centres.

The situation is I am assured no better in the States, where a far smaller proportion of clubs take advantage of the USGA Green Section's advisory service than do clubs here with S.T.R.I. Furthermore I am told that an even smaller proportion of U.S. superintendents are member of the GCSAA than the proportion in the U.K., who joined B.I.G.G.A. though their vast numbers at their annual jamborees makes this difficult to believe!

Respected golf writers such as Michael Williams and Donald Steel plead for better courses, better able to stand up to the vagaries of our weather (we do not have a climate!) and to produce not only first class conditions for major events but the same standards all the year round. Who is more important? A handful of talented and overpaid young men who care only that it is right on the day, or the all year round golfer, who should surely expect his course to be at the very least playable, whenever he wants to play it.

There are pleas for an end to the divisions that seem to beset the greenkeeping world, which are often less basic than it would appear. There are suggestions for a ruling authority to lay down standards for course management and presentation. Surely this is there already in the Royal and Ancient, working through its appointed body, the Golf Section of the Sports Turf Research Institute.

What we must eliminate are bad greenkeepers, and there are still many relying on fertilisers and water to tart

up their courses, be this for a major Tournament or their own Captain's day - not understanding, or worse not caring, that this way lies thatch, annual meadow grass, temporary greens and course deterioration. I have no patience with those who say we have to learn to live with annual meadow grass - even though I accept that past bad greenkeeping has often left an impossible legacy and control will necessarily be slow. So many of those who regard their awful meadow grass greens as inevitable have excellent bent approaches and fairways!

Finally, everyone from those in charge of clubs to those in charge of courses should note the avowed intention of the PGA to gain more control of the game. Whilst I rate many club professionals as my personal friends, there is no doubt that the interests of too many professionals in either group are opposed to those of members and players. This in no way implies that the interest of any club's professional in his Club's course should be discouraged, but he must not interfere with course management, any more than Greenkeepers should interfere with the way he runs HIS business. In far too many cases, malcontent members find their professional a willing focus for their grumbles - and once this happens, disaster and deterioration follow. Whilst undoubtedly the best way to run anything is through an amiable dictator there are two main problems - how to keep him amiable and how to stop him giving up - because it really is one of the most thankless tasks in the world to try to meet the opposed desires of the average membership - half of which are totally incompatible with the other.

The message is - especially to member 'controlled' clubs - to look after your good men, remembering that skilled staff are impossible to find and even bad ones are scarce.

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New Jubilee course opens at St Andrews

Originally regarded as a ladies course when it opened in 1887, the new Jubilee reconstructed course marks a further stage in the development of these famous links

Last month saw the opening of the 'new' Jubilee course at St Andrews. The original course was opened in 1887 on the day when Queen Victoria's Jubilee was celebrated, but it was regarded then as the ladies' course, an alternative to the gentler challenge on the ladies' putting green. In 1912, the course was extended from 12 to 18 holes and, in 1939, Willie Auchterlonie, then club professional to the R & A, with a few men began its construction. By 1946, they had made a pleasing course on the bayside of the dunes, not over-demanding, but ideal for beginners and high-handicap players, so wrote Pat Ward-Thomas in his book 'The Royal & Ancient'.



The central dune looking down the proposed 15th (the Golf Course May 1987)



Walter Woods admires the bunkering

The Jubilee course has been redesigned by Donald Steel with the main feature being the use of the huge main sand dune that used to be an unused spine down the centre of the course. This now comes

into play on four of the new holes. As our illustrations show work by constructors Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) has required considerable earth moving and contouring to maximise the links qualities of the terrain. Walter

Woods the St. Andrews Links Supervisor has worked closely with the contractors and is particularly pleased with the quality of the greens which will be every bit as demanding as those of the Old Course. The Links Manage-

CONSTRUCTION

The 15th



Autumn 1987



Spring 1989

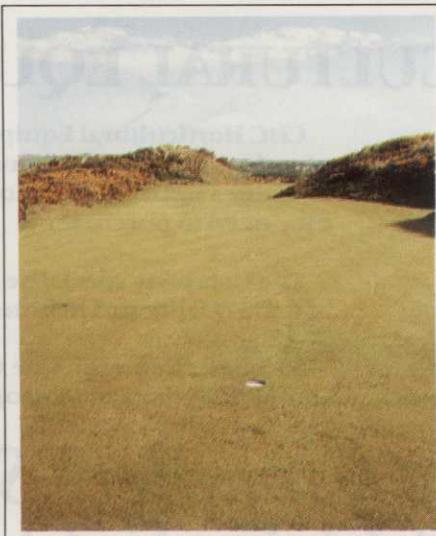
The 16th



Autumn 1988



Autumn 1987



Spring 1989

ment Trust are committed to providing even better facilities for visitors to the 'Home of Golf' and they together with Messrs Steel, Pierson and Woods are to be congratulated on producing an exciting course that will appeal to the visitor and take some of the strain from the old course. Steel has also been given the task by the Links Management Trust of redesigning the Eden course. Not only to make it a more valued test of golf, but by using some of the land recently acquired at the far end of the course.

***An exciting
new course that
appeals to all
golfers***

Steel's design allows the vast flat area that formed the 1st, 17th and 18th holes to be drained and provide a permanent site for the Open Championship tented village. With poor weather at three consecutive Open Championships the tented village area turned into a mudbath how with easy access next to the Old course, 16th green and the Old Course Hotel, this well drained area will provide an ideal site.

Staff constructed a lake that guards the entrance to the 8th green that has to be played over to the short 9th. A lake may seem a strange addition to the St. Andrews scene but it is an effective feature. A reproduction of the 'Principal's nose' is also incorporated in the design of the 16th hole. Next year on the land bought from the Strathstryrum Estate between the Eden and the road into the town, a further 18 hole layout is to be built, again designed by Donald Steel and built for the Links Management Trust by Brian Pierson.

Material is being collected from the other courses to form the sand dunes to the flat pastureland site for the Strathstryrum course, into a links in keeping with the St. Andrews tradition.



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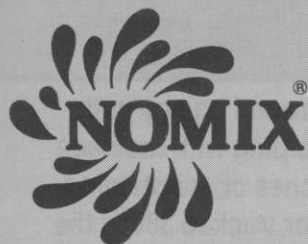
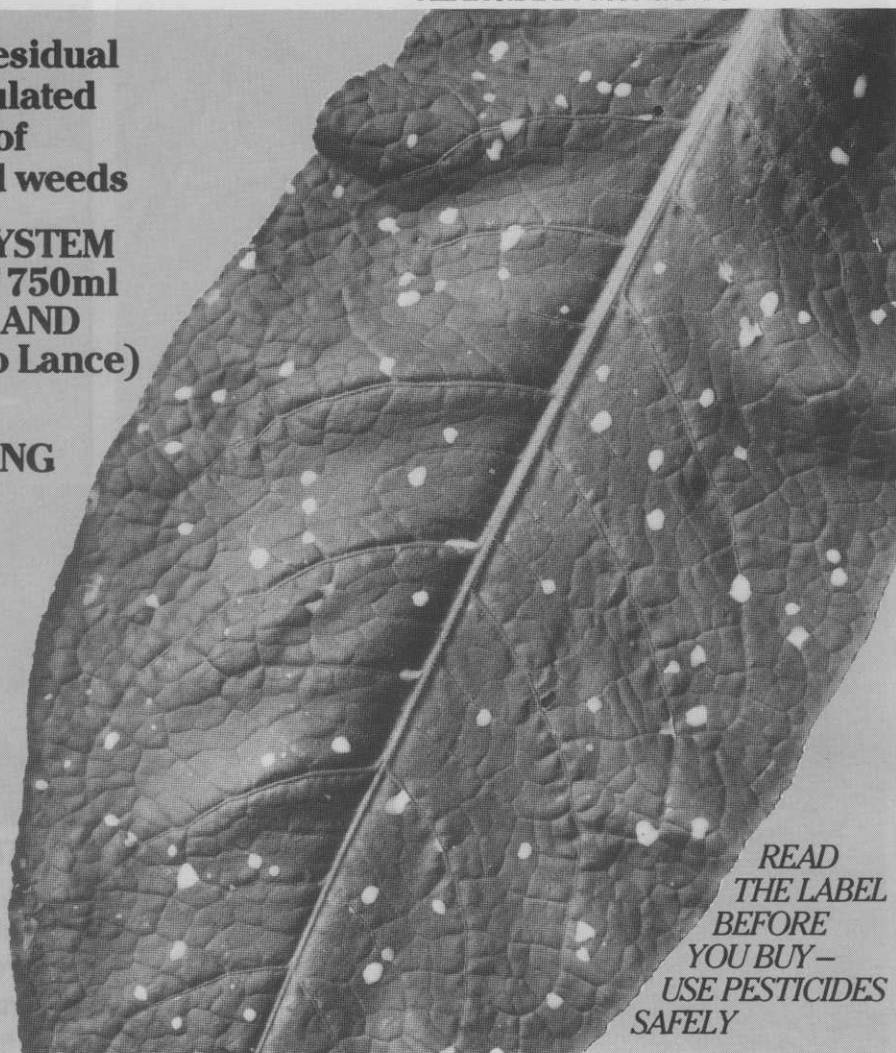
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