

This Issue

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Front cover: Steetley Minerals has launched two ranges of grass seed. Gold Key and Silver Key offer a mixture and blend for all sports, recreation and amenity purposes.

The Gold Key range comprises two fine textured mixtures, one turf type perennial blend and a multi-purpose mixture containing dwarf ryegrasses. All components are selected only from highly rated and outstanding varieties balanced to ensure top flight value and performance.

The Silver Key range includes five mixtures and one ryegrass blend offering quality combined with price economy. All contain proven and reliable varieties carefully mixed to produce turf suitable for a wide range of situations and purposes.

Gold Key and Silver Key are complementary to the whole of the Key Range of fertilisers, top dressings, soil conditioners and speciality products.

Full details from Steetley Minerals, Vitax Department, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Nr Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0SB. ☎ 0704 893311.

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Derek Edwards is the managing director of Rolawn (Turf Growers)

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Make Merseyside A Must This Summer!

This issue's In My Opinion article (see page 6) features Derek Edwards of Rolawn. Derek recently attended the official opening by Her Majesty, The Queen, of the International Garden Festival at Liverpool.

"What a spectacle! There are over 30 theme gardens ranging from a *Blue Peter* Garden designed by a 14-year-old boy, a Witches Garden and a Jam Garden depicting giant toppled jam jars with large areas of red pansies giving the spilt jam effect. For the more serious minded, there are over 20 international landscapes including contributions from China, Japan, Holland, Egypt and Austria to name a few of the outstanding arrangements," Derek said.

"In addition to the impressive domed Festival Hall, I visited the water park, marine esplanade, a Grass Garden (in which I could not identify a single grass species!), a model forest, the BBC's 'Garden of Memorabilia' and, generally, a horticultural extravaganza on a scale I have never witnessed before."

Standing in the centre of the 250 acre site on the River Mersey across from Cammell Laird's shipyard, Derek found it difficult to appreciate that, just two years before, the whole area was derelict land, devoid of any greenery—in short, a tip.

Born out of the Toxteth riots in 1981, the final go-ahead for this Herculaneum (the name of the old dock) project was given to the Merseyside Development Corporation by the Secretary of State for the Environment in May 1982. It has cost £12.5m to construct, of which, surprisingly, only £1.5m has been spent on the actual landscaping—most was gobbled up in civil engineering works.

"They are expecting three million visitors by the time the exhibition closes in October after which parts of the site will be sold off to private developers, while the Festival Hall will be retained for public use.

"This is the first International Garden Festival of its type in this country and is a must for all to visit," Derek added.



Derek Edwards (left) is pictured with Rolawn chairman Ken Dawson (right) and company secretary J. Gibson.