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Stop Press... Windsor

ANOTHER Institute of Groundsmanship international exhibition has come and gone, producing its usual gamut of news.

Just about the biggest story to break at Windsor was that Morrison has become the sole distributor for Jacobsen, as well as Morrison lawn and turfcare equipment. Ron Higgins, managing director and international co-ordinator of Morrison Industries New Zealand, said: "Over the past two years, Morrison Industries has re-established a firm base here in England - in premises, technical support, sales representation and service. This has meant considerable investment. The company is committed to manufacturing top-quality mowers, giving value for money in both domestic and professional markets. With the inclusion of the superb Jacobsen range, Morrison Industries can offer one of the most extensive ranges in the UK."

In addition to distributing Jacobsen's products, Morrison Industries is now responsible for servicing the American firm's equipment from Morrison's new UK base at Kings Lynn, Norfolk and through a network of service agents. Chris Smith, general manager of Morrison UK operations, will direct the

new venture, liaising with Curt Kimpfbeck, Jacobsen's director of international sales, who is based at Racine, Wisconsin, USA.

With justification, SISIS was shouting about its new introductions on to the market. The latest Autocrat gives a true 4in x 4in x 4in tine performance, providing 100 holes per square yard. Twin head adaptors increase the number of holes to 180. Meanwhile, the Hydromain Fourteen is now available with a Kubota twin-cylinder, water-cooled diesel engine.

Fisons Horticulture revealed the results of a £4.5m investment with the introduction of a new Greenmaster range of fine turf fertilisers manufactured by a new production process that incorporates vermiculite as a density adjuster. Carried out at the company's latest Ipswich plant, this process produces a granule ideally suited to fine turf fertilisers. The vermiculite makes the granules light in colour, so greenkeepers can see where they've covered, yet the granules remain unobtrusive when spread.

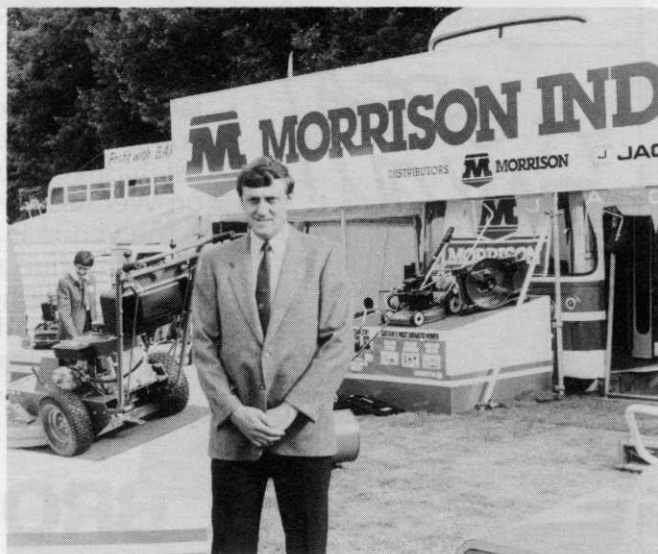
Nobody can deny the many major benefits of May & Baker's CDA (Controlled Droplet Application), which is a system for applying chemicals in an undiluted form using a spinning disc applicator. You don't need to add any water to the CDA range and there's no handling or transferring of chemicals. The system also offers greatly improved efficiency and flexibility.

One of the most popular calling points, as usual, was the Rigby Taylor stand. Rigby Taylor took the opportunity to launch a new range of slow-release fertilisers - Mascot Microfine.

Finally, the best 'live show' of the week was staged by BASF, which uses a turtle for promoting Floranid, so what better than to bring Florie to meet her public? A giant turtle, together with keeper, happily whiled away the time in a corner of the BASF stand. Visitors were invited to guess the beast's weight and win a trip to the BASF headquarters in West Germany!

Obviously, it is impossible to detail all the displays, but it was generally agreed that a wide range of new and revolutionary lines contributed greatly to A Good Windsor!

There'll be more news on these and other items from the show in the next issue's Notebook pages.



Ron Higgins of Morrison Industries.