

## New Farm Trials Endorse Hormones For Denser Sward

Farmers are just proving scientifically what leading greenkeepers have known for years - that natural plant hormones, applied to grass, can improve the quality of the sward and enable grass to respond more generously to routine care treatments.

The technique has long been proven on cereals, but the growing importance of grass in the costings of feedstuffs has prompted a more careful look at the extension of established hormone treatment to the grass crop and some of the figures quoted from trials make compelling reading for anyone engaged in the management of grass.

Trials carried out for Seamac Agricultural by specialist grassland farmers bear out the wisdom of what many greenkeepers already practise, based on experience and instinct. And a research programme promises fuller information, which will enable Seamac 600 natural hormone extract to be used with even greater precision and benefit on golf courses. More trials, to be independently monitored and assessed, are in the programme for this year.

In the meantime, it is worth noting that on one farm where observations were carried out with grass grown especially for a drying plant (which was, therefore, managed and measured more closely than is customary on a normal livestock farm), reports spoke enthusiastically of increased tillering and a noticeably heavier 'bottom' to the sward.

The trials were extensive enough to be significant - ten acres treated with Seamac 600 compared with ten adjacent acres untreated.

The management of such grassland has certain parallels with golf course turf, since it involves a series of repeated cuts through the season, with quick recovery needed so that cuts may follow each other as quickly as possible. All the signs pointed unmistakably to the effect of Seamac 600 stimulating tillering,

giving a denser sward from a vigorous root system.

Greenkeepers who already use Seamac 600 will know it is a wholly natural, non-toxic product that is environmentally safe and can be used on turf in constant use. The reinforcement of the grass's own natural hormone resources increases photosynthesis, stimulates more tillers and enables the plant to resist drought. The resultant thicker sward stands up better to traffic.

It is emphasised, by the manufacturer and greenkeeper users, that Seamac 600 does not call for any change of existing basic turf technique. Applied by sprayer at any time during the year, it is absorbed through the leaves and works by regulating the natural growth processes of the grass, thus actually enhancing the effect of whatever routine treatments the greenkeeper normally practises.

It has been the general rule to apply Seamac 600 to golf courses particularly as part of the autumn and spring management programme. One of the first results of the agricultural trials on grass is to suggest that there are extra benefits to be derived also from applications throughout summer, particularly to combat drought stress and the wearing-out of the sward in areas of heavy traffic.

The peak of the effect of treatment seems to come some weeks after application, but further work is being done this year on timings and greenkeepers may prefer to work out methods to suit their specialised demands.

It should be realised that hormones cannot themselves make grass grow from earth that is already bare, but they can improve the density of already growing grass, thus enabling it to stand up to the various stresses imposed upon it.

## New Hydraulic Cylinder Mower From Green's

Green's has introduced to its range a triple gang hydraulic cylinder mower for use on smaller compact tractors from 16 din upwards.

Called the triple Bantam, this mower is mounted on the tractor three-point linkage and driven by a tandem pump on the pto, giving an 84in cut.

Each gang unit is independently controlled for cut, lap and lift and a mechanical safety cut-out is incorporated to prevent each cylinder running when lifted.

The outer gangs can be lifted while the gangs on the ground

continue to cut, allowing manoeuvrability round trees, benches, etc. Cylinders are 7½in diameter and are available with five or eight blades. The Bantam is priced at £3,340 (plus VAT) with five blades and £3,409 (plus VAT) with eight blades, including a one-year commercial warranty and free delivery.

Green's machinery is distributed in the UK by Claymore Grass Machinery, Fergus Square, Arbroath, Angus (Tel: 0241 73841) and 37 Dulverton Road, Witton, Birmingham (Tel: 021-326 7171).



The Green's Bantam triple hydraulic cylinder mower.

## One Success Leads To Another

After the launch last September of specially formulated water-soluble back-lapping compound, Charterhouse Turf Machinery received many requests from users to provide a simple means of revolving a mower cylinder backwards at low revolutions.

To meet this demand, Charterhouse Turf Machinery has designed the Charterhouse Easy-Lap back-lapping machine. Adjustments for different size cylinders are by means of a hand-wound screw thread, between 0-150mm.

Power comes from a heavy-duty electric motor, fan-air cooled and fully insulated, driving a bevel gear reduction gearbox with dual output for fitting to both left and right handed cylinders via a universal coupling. The motor is fully shielded and weatherproof.

The combination of a back-lapping machine and compound will leave mowers sharp in minutes and regular use will reduce the need for regrinding. Easy-Lap is available with either a single phase or three-phase motor and costs £480 (excluding VAT).

Full details of the Charterhouse Easy-Lap back-lapping machine and back-lapping compound can be obtained from Charterhouse Turf Machinery (Sales), Pink's Yard, Church Road, Milford, Surrey GU8 5JD. Tel: 04868 24411.

## Using Pesticides Safely

Practical advice on how to use pesticides safely is given in three free leaflets published by the Health and Safety Executive

(HSE).

Carl Boswell, chief agricultural inspector, said: "Crop spraying can be a risky business. It is essential that operators know how to protect themselves and how to keep pesticides on target crops, where they belong."

Last year, the HSE's agricultural inspectorate issued 114 notices requiring action to be taken in the safe use of pesticides. Nineteen people were prosecuted and fines totalling almost £6,000 imposed by the courts.

*Training In The Use Of Pesticides* lists organisations providing courses for spray operators. *Protective Clothing For Use With Pesticides* stresses that different chemicals and operations need different protection. It gives advice on choosing and using protective clothing including face shields, coveralls, gloves and boots. *Crop Spraying* is a revised leaflet updating advice on precautions with pesticides and includes a handy reference chart.

All the leaflets, plus a free wallchart, are available from HSE public enquiry points in Sheffield (on 0742 752539), Bootle (on 051-951 4381) and London (on 01-221 0416/0870).

## Toro Reshapes UK Network

Toro Irrigation has announced a major restructuring of its dealer network. Toro representation is now shared by three regional distributors which, between them, will be responsible for all irrigation markets in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The distributors are Turf Irrigation Services of Sandbach, Cheshire, Golf Landscapes of

Brentwood, Essex and Irrigation & Slurry Services of Downton, Wiltshire.

Toro dealers include Sports Turf Services, Edinburgh, Stewarts Construction of Paisley, Par Four of Ripon, Smiths of Grimsby and the Jersey Farmers Trading Union.

Peter Roberts, general manager of Toro Irrigation, said: "We have centralised operations on these three main dealers because of their deep involvement, length of experience, consolidated knowledge and success in the fine turf and sports irrigation markets."

Contact Peter Roberts at Toro Irrigation, Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SD. Tel: 04254 6261.

## Tee Alternative

Firstee - an all-weather tee from Chipman - is a 12sq ft silica sand filled artificial grass carpet. Because of its porous nature, it always provides a good teeing surface.

There's ample room to vary tee-off positions and, being level with the existing tee, it eliminates that uncomfortable feeling of stepping up or on to an artificially prepared surface.

Greenstaff have found Firstee ideal for tree-shrouded tees where it is almost impossible to keep a good grass covering. Installation is simple and maintenance comprises an occasional brush over and top-up with sand.

Chipman is marketing Firstee not as a winter substitute, but an all-year-round alternative to turf. Further information from Chipman on 0403 60341.

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- GOLF COURSES - Birkdale, Lytham St. Annes, St. Andrews, Woburn
- RACECOURSES - Ascot, Ayr, Chester, Uttoxeter
- LAND RECLAMATION - Work in progress on NCB sites
- ALSO on cricket pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts - in fact, wherever grass is sown, grown and mown



## People, Places, Products

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) has been awarded contracts for the construction of a nine-hole course at Charterhouse Public School and nine holes at Moors Valley Country Park for Wimborne council. The company is actively involved in negotiations for a further six golf courses.

Parkers have been appointed distributors for Surrey, London and south of the Thames for Suzuki two-stroke and four-stroke general-purpose industrial engines - from 3.5hp upwards - portable generators and water pumps.

Further information from T Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7NF. Tel: 01-377 7791.

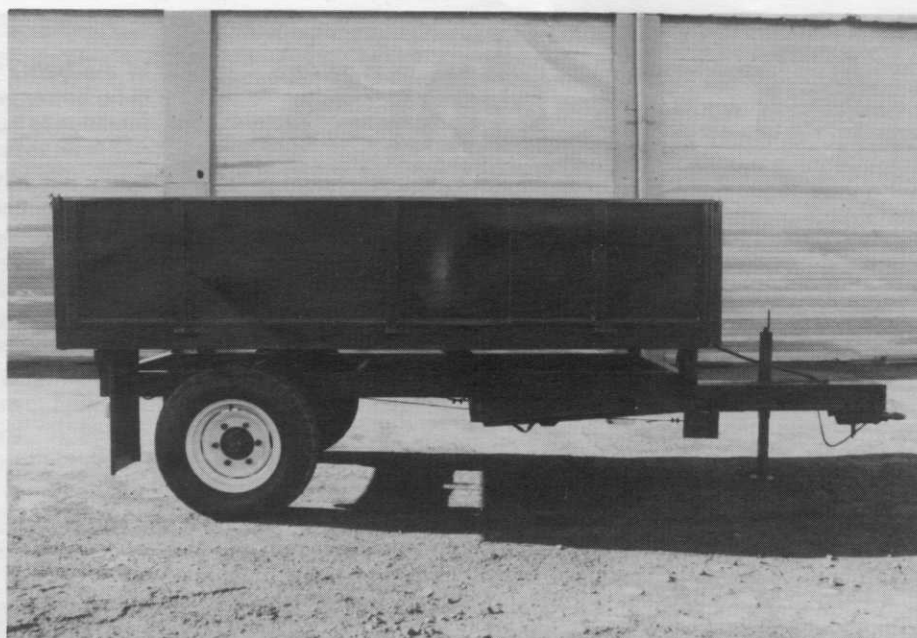
The Royal & Ancient Golf Club aims to establish a golf museum at St Andrews. To be known as The British Golf Museum, it will be housed in a separate building to the clubhouse and open to the public.

The club already possesses many items of golfing memorabilia, which will be made available to the museum but, when it is felt the project has reached an appropriate stage, the R & A will also be pleased to hear from anyone who has any objects of interest, such as clubs, golf balls, books, films, trophies and paintings.

A museum panel has been formed under the chairmanship of Sir Alistair Denny, who has received advice from the curators of the lawn tennis museum at Wimbledon and the cricket museum at Lord's.

Lolode Trailers, the lightweight division of King Trailers, recently fulfilled an order for 22 five-tonne capacity, on-site tipping trailers for the Volta Region African Development Project.

The pto operated tippers, designed for use with agricultural tractor units, feature 2ft steel dropsides and



Out of Market Harborough and into Africa, tippers from Lolode Trailers.

are fitted with a single axle. They were despatched in kit form.

Further details on the trailers

can be obtained from King Trailers, Riverside, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PX. Tel: 0858 67361.

St Andrews could have a new championship golf course, together with a hotel and leisure complex, if planning permission is granted for a £5m development scheme. The site for the Craigie Hill project is 107 hectares a few miles north-west of St Andrews at Leuchars.

The 100 bedroom hotel will include restaurants, bars, clubrooms and a swimming pool. The adjoining sports complex is intended to provide outdoor tennis courts and indoor facilities, including squash, curling, tennis, fitness rooms and saunas. Should outline planning permission be granted, outside funding will be sought for the golf course, which may be floated as a public company.



Artist's impression of the new development at Craigie.