

Twenty-Five Years Of Top Dressing

Fendress is part of a fine range of topdressing mixtures supplied by Banks Horticultural Products of Market Harborough, which recently celebrated its silver jubilee.

"Our business was started by my late father in 1961," managing director Tim Banks said. "The prime objective was the extraction of sedge peat in bulk for the Nature Conservancy Council to create a mere. Our source of peat then was just outside Peterborough at Holme Fen and this is where the original extraction took place. Some 25 acres of this has now been filled with water and is now a nature reserve.

"In the early 1960s we went to golf clubs, landscape contractors and local authorities to find a market for the sedge peat. We also had the overburden of the peat available and were looking around for the best use to be made of it. This is how we formed the idea of incorporating it in an organic-based topdressing in the late 1970s. We have been using the peat soil ever since for this operation.

"The sedge peat side has gone from strength to strength and we now market other peats and products as well. Turfculture sales form a large part of our business, so we have added to this a new range of Fendress that uses peat

soil from another part of the country. The registered trade mark for our fen turf dressing is 'Fendress,' which is a protected name."

I asked Tim Banks which was the most popular topdressing they supplied to golf courses. "Fendress without doubt," he replied. "We have a standard mix of 70/30, but this can be adjusted to suit individual clubs needs as desired. The difference between Fendress and many other topdressings is that we use a soil extremely low in clay and silt fractions, which makes it ideal for application to golf greens."

Banks can supply a loam-based dressing, the formula of which (loam, sand, peat) can be tailored to suit any particular requirement at no additional cost to the customer. All their mixtures are also available in 25 kilo sacks. "Most of our deliveries are made in bulk, which is the most economical way, so this allows us to deliver to the most distant parts of the country at very competitive prices," Tim added.

The sedge or fen peat is a rich

black peat from the company's exclusive deposits in East Anglia and it is ideal for golf and bowling greens, especially when it has been finely screened and blended with the company's selected grade of sand and soil to make a superior topdressing mixture that is easily absorbed by fine turf.

When used on a regular basis in conjunction with other sound turf-culture practices, these dressings will produce a smooth resilient surface.

"I am grateful to the many customers who have supported us over the past 25 years," Tim said. "We are a small family firm and know most of our customers personally. My wife Anne helps in the office and keeps the accounts.

"The list and number of clubs we supply with peat and/or topdressing is impressive and widespread, from St Andrews in Fife to Yelverton in Devon, Clondeboy in Northern Ireland to Royal St George's in Kent. We are also able to supply lime free sands in a choice of colours, yellow or white." **John Campbell**

Efficient transportation has contributed to the company's success story.



*Banks
Horticultural Products.*

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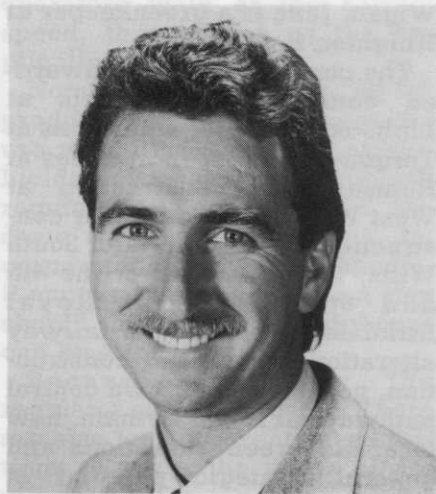
Pre-Packed supplies available. Special mixes to your specification prepared. Also, Screened Sedge Peat ("Fenpeat") in bulk. Lime Free Sands, White or Yellow. Screened Loam, etc.

Please telephone T.J. Banks for quotations. You will be surprised by our competitive prices.



Contact: Fen Turf Dressings Ltd., 36 High Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NL.
Tel: Market Harborough (0858) 64346.

People, Places, Products



John Mullins.

Two new recruits to the Supaturf Products sales team were appointed recently - John Mullins in the Midlands and Patrick Taylor in the north of England. Bill Heath, sales representative, and Fred Fox, technical adviser, have both retired from the company.



Patrick Taylor.

Paul E. deRham has been appointed marketing representative for Weather-matic Division, Telsco Industries, covering all of Europe except Spain and Portugal.

Paul is an agricultural engineer and has irrigation experience in European, African and Middle Eastern markets. He can be contacted at Weather-matic, Britannic House, 28 St Peters Road, Bournemouth BH1 2LP. Tel: 0202 296357.

The Weather-matic Division of

Telsco Industries is based in Dallas, Texas and manufactures irrigation controllers, valves and sprinklers for commercial and residential irrigation systems.



Paul E. deRham.

TORO UK dealer salesman of the year is John Linton of A.M. Russell. He wins a holiday for two in the USA. John's patch covers the Scottish border to the north coast. He lives on the outskirts of Edinburgh and is married with two sons. General sales manager, Graham Dale presented the prize.

British Airways clubs groundsmen Kenneth Graham won a bottle of champagne in a charity competition staged on the Fisons stand at Windsor. For every entry, Fisons gave 5p to the Windsor Lions. A donation of £30 was

Golf Landscapes is updating the 18-hole Sherringham (Norfolk) links by installing 72 Toro 656 single-head control sprinklers.

Single-head control represents the latest form of irrigation technology. It enables the greenkeeper or staff to operate one, two, three or four sprinklers per green depending on requirements.



Graham Dale presented a cheque to John Linton (see story left).

made over the three days of the exhibition.

Two other IOG visitors also won magnums - Nigel Potter of Saddleworth Golf Club, Oldham and Nigel Picketts of Buckinghamshire County Council.



Richard Clements (left) of the Windsor Lions and Gill Blunden of Fisons are seen with Kenneth Graham.

People, Places, Products Continued...

The 1986 IOG groundsman of the year is John Warner, grounds supervisor with the London Borough of Merton. Young groundsman of the year is Wayne Nash, a groundsman for the British Steel Corporation in Ebbw Vale. Runners-up are Laurence Pithie, golf course manager at Minchinhampton GC and Colin Bell, a student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh.

This is the sixth time the IOG has organised the annual competition. Sponsored by Scottish Agricultural Industries, the competition attracted almost 1,000 entries.

The two winners receive an all-expenses paid trip to Phoenix, Arizona for the 1987 GCSAA annual convention. The runners-up enjoy a weekend at Gleneagles and the next three finalists, in both categories, receive study vouchers. Between them, winners, runners-up and finalists share £3,000 of prizes, including Stewart Crystal trophies and education and training awards.

Special prizes are also being made to the colleges that submitted the highest number of student entries. The Cheshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture

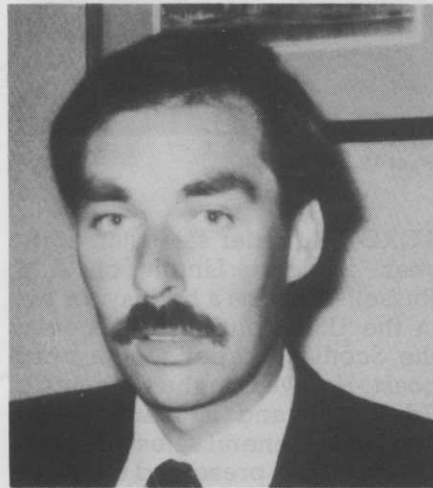


John Warner.

receives £400 worth of Longlife products, while the runner-up, the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, gets £100 worth.

● *Laurence Pithie lives at Tetbury, Gloucestershire. He has two courses in his care at Minchinhampton. The old course was established on commonland in 1889 and the new course was built in 1975.*

A member of the EIGGA and BGGGA, Laurence is a former winner of a similar competition during which he visited the west coast of America. Married, he has two sons and plays badminton.



Laurence Pithie.

R+R Workbenches are currently best known in the motorcycle world, where they are market leaders in the hydraulic workbench field, but the company is now turning its attention to groundsmen. The price for the fully equipped 880lb payload machine is £382 (plus VAT).

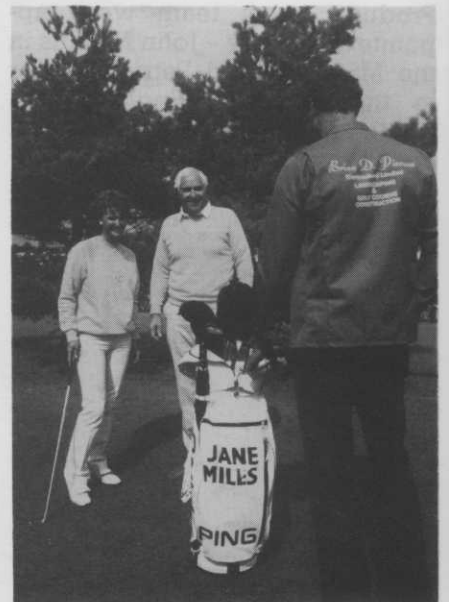
Paul English, director of R+R (UK), said: "Workbenches are becoming more necessary with the success of ride-on mowers and mini-tractors. Dealers, authorities and golf courses need to get the best value when equipping workshops and our no-nonsense approach means everyone gets a good deal."

The standard model is recommended for most applications, but R+R are creating an additional model with a one metre wide table to accept even the widest of mowers.

More information from R+R (UK), Unit 14, Tower Square, St Peters Industrial Park, Huntingdon, Cambs. Tel: 0480 411146.

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) sponsored Jane Miles in the Greater Manchester WPGA tournament at Haigh Hall, Wigan. Jane is a greenkeeper at Knighton Heath GC.

The company has been awarded construction contracts at Liphook, for major alterations at Torquay, new green and tees at Romsey, tee construction at West Wilts, tee and bunker construction at Salisbury and South Wilts, reconstruction of the 4th and 6th greens at Royal Birkdale, together with fairway alteration and mound construction, new tees and crowd control pathways at Royal Lytham, new tees and green alterations and general strategic planting at Roehampton, and tee construction and drainage at Royal Wimbledon.



Jane Miles with Brian D. Pierson.

Parkers took orders for more than 450 tonnes of XYLorganic, a new concept in organic dressings for fine turf applications, soon after its introduction.

XYLorganic contains no peat and is therefore of great value where thatch reduction is of paramount importance. It contains soil conditioners and is rich in trace elements and, because it has ion exchange properties, is also of value on light sandy soils where leaching may be a problem. In addition, XYLorganic will not cap or seal the surface.

XYLorganic is available from Parkers or Roffey Brothers of Bournemouth. Contact: T. Parkers & Sons (Turf Management), Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7NF. Tel: 01-337 7791.

The advantages of CDA sprayers are well known, but one minor problem has, until now, remained unsolved - ensuring operators walk at the correct speed, thus governing the application rate.

Nomix Manufacturing, which produces hand-held lances for use with BP Oil's range of herbicides, has devised a speed regulator, which acts in the same way as a metronome. Incorporated into the lance handle, it emits a bleep each time a step should be taken. Headphones can be attached.

Because steps vary, the regulator can be adjusted. There are also four different speed settings to cover the range of application rates.

The device is offered as an optional extra with all new Nomix Panther lances, but can also be incorporated into existing models.



The speed regulator and its controls are built into the handle of the Nomix Panther lance together with a headphone socket.

To help occupational health and safety practitioners recognise the wide range of information available on chemicals, the HSE library and information service has updated a list of references contained in a *Chemicals Subject Catalogue*. Free copies of the catalogue are obtainable from these public enquiry points.

Broad Lane, Sheffield S3 7HQ. Tel: 0742 752539. St Hugh's House, Stanley Precinct, Trinity Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3QY. Tel: 051 951 4381. Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, Westbourne Grove, London W2 4TF. Tel: 01-221 0870.

The list will be updated in 1987 to take account of new chemical information being issued. General enquiries to 01-723 3418.

Over 50 greenkeepers and groundsmen from the south-east met at the New Zealand Golf Club, West Byfleet, Surrey to take part in the annual Supaturf (formerly Turf Maintenance Supplies) Golf Tournament. Winners were presented with their prizes by David Palmer, managing director of Supaturf.

British Seed Houses of the Bewsey Industrial Estate, Pitt Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 5LE (tel: 0925 54411) has published its autumn catalogue and price list, covering amenity grasses, sportsground fertilisers and wild flora conservation mixtures.

BSH has technical advisers in four territories. Contact Paul Jukes at the Eastfield Industrial Estate, Penicuik, Mid-Lothian (tel: 0968 78480), Paul Hankinson at Warrington (as above), Chris Owen at 5 Hangar Camp Road, Swinderby, Lincoln (052286 714) and Jonathan Franks at Portview Road, Avonmouth, Bristol (0272 823691).



David Palmer and John Field of Supaturf with Graham Godmon and Chris Mardon.

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Scottish Debut For TW2



The new, advanced TW2 computer irrigation controller from Watermation was on show at Scotsturf '86 recently.

All-British designed and made, it has all the advantages of a computer controller without the cost usually associated with them. Operation is simple by means of push buttons and it requires no previous computer knowledge.

The TW2 has been developed by Watermation from the TW1 two wire controller. It is capable of controlling 396 individual irrigation stations, which means it can handle a complete golf course scheme all from one unit.

The TW2 will operate four different zones, each capable of four different start times. In practical terms, this means that, given sufficient water and pumping capacity, four different areas could be operated simultaneously or, in fact, any combination of areas.

The timing is, of course, computer accurate with set times as wide as one minute to ten hours, in one minute steps, which makes it suitable for both drip and sprinkler irrigation.

It has a built-in test function to check on the operation of the system without actually operating sprinklers and without affecting any previously set programme and displays 'rain' when the rainstat has operated during the night.

Full details from Watermation, Monument Way E, Woking, Surrey GU21 5LY. Tel: 04862 70303.

Little Change In New Set-Up

In a joint statement from the Racine, Wisconsin headquarters of Jacobsen Textron, Ned Brinkman, vice-president of sales, and Curt Kimpfbeck, director of international sales, recently announced a new division of the company based at Unit 12, N. Lynn Industrial Estate, Bergen Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JG. Tel: 0553 763333.

'This new company was established in September after our former distributor, located at the same address, decided to concentrate its sales efforts on selling the domestic line of Morrison Industries mowers through a new company being established near Bristol.

'Jacobsen Textron Division of Textron Ltd has retained much of the staff of Morrison Industries, including Chris Smith, who will serve as sales manager. Jacobsen now offers a continuity of service to the users of professional turf equipment in the UK and will continue the policy of selling machines and parts directly to end-users utilising a network of service agents.

'To give the best possible service, Jacobsen will maintain a stock of machines and spare parts for immediate delivery to customers. In addition, factory warranty service and technical assistance will be available from King's Lynn.'

A Good Little Mover!

The new Cushman Eagle turf utility vehicle made its first working appearance in Britain during the Suntory World Matchplay Championship.

On loan to Wentworth for the event's duration, the petrol-engined Eagle has been brought to Britain by Cushman distributor Huxleys Grass Machinery so that full evaluation can be carried out. The Eagle is already proving a great success in its American home market.

Gerry Coley, Wentworth's course superintendent, asked to borrow the light-treading vehicle to assist his staff with general

transport and maintenance duties. "We were well-satisfied with the way the Eagle performed," Gerry said. "It proved a most useful little worker."

Huxleys Grass Machinery is looking initially to evaluate the Eagle's performance and potential on sports, leisure and amenity turf in areas served by its retail branches at Egham, Surrey and New Alresford, Hampshire.

Demonstrations can be arranged by contacting the company's sales departments on either Egham (0784) 38666 or Alresford (096273) 3222.



The Cushman Eagle flew around Wentworth during the Suntory.

New System From Notts Is Proving Good News

Local authorities and clubs that installed Nottinghamshire County Council's grass reinforcement system last spring on worn-out goalmouth areas of football pitches are reporting excellent results with growth and stabilisation.

Notts Sport managing director Bert Patrick forecasts large scale take-up of the new product, which grows grass through a synthetic carpet, next spring.

The Caravan Club of Great Britain tried out grass reinforcement on two sites in England and have stated that, so successful was the growth and root retention, it will be embarking on a programme of installation on many of its sites.

Notts Sport reached agreement with Mommersteeg International and Roffey Bros to produce approved seed and dressing for the grass reinforcement product through their distributor network.

The company is now heavily involved in upgrading hard porous pitches, using the Nottinghamshire Envelope System, with sand-filled NottSward Grass.

Yarmouth Borough Council has opened its new Notts pitch and a full-size area has just been upgraded at Redhill Joint Use Sports Centre, Arnold, Notts. Two other pitches have been officially opened at Dronfield and on the new Wilford complex at West Bridgford. Work has commenced on upgrading a hard porous area of 10,600 sq metres at Southampton.

Tennis court upgrading, from

tarmac and shale, figures high on the Notts list of priorities and councils are responding to the idea of converting courts to multi-purpose sports areas with particular emphasis on five-a-side kickabout.

Cricket wicket sales have received a boost with the announcement that the National Cricket Association has agreed to recommend and endorse Nottinghamshire Envelope and Direct Lay System pitches. Notts Sports is forecasting sales of at least 350 wickets next year.

From Humble Beginnings

The CDC group of companies, based near Woodbridge, Suffolk, recently held an open day for golf club secretaries and greenkeepers at Heath Farm Golf Club, outside Ipswich. CDC is involved in a variety of operations, from landscaping to demolition, as well as contract maintenance, golf course construction and the supply of reconditioned professional turfcare equipment.

Four years ago, group chairman Arthur Clarke turned a small site at Heath Farm into a short nine-hole course and the club has blossomed to such extent that there are now over 300 members and a waiting list. A further nine holes have been constructed and are expected to be ready for play next summer, with a pitch and putt course and practice area to follow.

The course is no championship layout, but is a good test for beginners with green fees as low as £3.50 daily during the week.

ChildsPlay areas are benefitting by the Notts Envelope and VHAF systems for creating installations that meet requirements for critical height measurements. The synthetic grass concept in NottSward sand-filled or rubber-crumb filled has produced a good alternative to the traditional bark and gravel surfaces that are prone to contamination.

Full details from Notts Sport, Launde House, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicestershire LE2 4LE. Tel: 0533 718892/716344/716027.

As a major contractor, especially to airfields throughout East Anglia and Germany, CDC has a vast fleet of grass cutting equipment. This has given the group extensive experience in the care and renovation of all kinds of machinery and a thriving business has been built up in reconditioned equipment which, having bought-in, they rebuild right down to the last nut and bolt.

This is then sold, with a warranty, often at less than half the new price - well worth looking at for any club whose budget is tight.

CDC will locate and recondition specific equipment at a club's request. Alternatively, they will make an on-sight inspection and give a written quotation for repairs or a complete rebuild, at no obligation, of a club's existing machinery.

For further details, contact Alan Clarke or Bob Buckingham on 0473 36733.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS...

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Here Comes Holdfast D

ICI Professional Products has developed Holdfast D, a combined grass growth retardant and herbicide containing paclobutrazol and dicamba.

Holdfast D is a soil acting growth regulator taken up by the plant roots and controlling grass growth by preventing the production of the growth hormone gibberellic acid.

In addition to controlling the growth of all major grass species, Holdfast D will suppress many broad-leaved weeds found in amenity areas.

Holdfast D offers many advantages over other commercially available grass growth retardants, the major one being that its activity is not reduced if rain falls immediately after or during application. In fact, initial uptake is aided by rainfall.

Where suppression of seed head formation is important and where coarse grasses are dominant, maleic hydrazide or mefluidide can be tank mixed with Holdfast D at half the recommended rate of use providing for the user the ideal combination of a soil acting, residual grass growth regulator, inhibiting grass and head formation, and suppression of many broad leaved weed species.

Holdfast D is supplied in five-litre plastic packs, sufficient to treat one hectare.

For further information, contact ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey. Tel: 0252 724525.

An ICI turf disease specialist and an American expert on the benefits of soil wetting agents in a turf management programme attracted over 70 greenkeepers and groundsmen to a seminar organised by Supaturf Products at Cambridge.

Mrs Demie Moore-Powell, vice-president of Aquatrols Corporation of America, manufacturers of Aqua-Gro, presented a talk on soil wetting agents as a turf management tool.

This was followed by a presentation on the protection against and the control of diseases affecting turf, given by Malcolm Evans, technical services manager for ICI Professional Products. Malcolm announced the launch of the new ICI fungicide Daconil turf.

Further information on Aqua-Gro and Daconil turf can be obtained from Supaturf Products, Oxney Road, Peterborough PE1 5YZ. Tel: 0733 68384.

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Untreated (left) and after treatment (right).

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Back To The Bad Old Days

Reviewing current trends in the UK turf irrigation market, Peter Roberts, general manager of Toro Irrigation, said: "I am disappointed to discover that some of our reputable competitors are resorting to the installation of 'under-designed' watering systems in an attempt to win orders on price alone, taking the industry back to the bad old days of the 1970s.

"In my opinion, backed by 15 years experience gained with many types of irrigation systems and applications, cut-price designs, installation and equipment often lead to problems. Take the average British summer and such systems get by. Should the spring bring weeks of dry weather or the summer suddenly turn hot, problems show themselves. Brown patches develop, the poor old greenkeeper or groundsman gets stick, he complains about the watering system and all of the industry is branded inefficient.

"Equally, poorly designed systems can put on too much water. Thatch and disease develop, the system quite rightly gets the blame, but so do the rest of us in the business.

"Ignorance and lack of judgement by those buying a watering system does not help. One purchasing committee recently chose the lowest price despite being advised that the system they favoured was under-specified. Having made their decision, they then spent more money to improve the system.

"In this case, we are talking about ratepayers' money. Had the committee responsible selected a slightly more expensive and properly designed irrigation system, they would have actually paid less than the final bills amounted to!

"My company is determined to continue to work to the highest standards. We do not accept that systems must be designed to cut corners and costs and believe in

providing the customer with value for money.

"Looking to the future, I see a major share of our market developing in the replacement of time-expired metal sprinklers, especially those used on golf courses and we are also closely involved in designing watering systems for sand-based grassed sports pitches."

Contact Peter Roberts on 0425 470147.

Introducing Inturf In Business

Inturf of Pocklington, York, set up during the spring of 1985 by Derek Edwards, is offering a range of own-grown specialist cultivated turf.

To be marketed under the brand name Supersward, the range includes: Fescue/bent turf (SS1), fescue/perennial turf-type ryegrass turf (SS2), fescue/bent/smooth stalked meadow grass turf (SS4), together with low maintenance/drought resistant turf (SS3). Most types are now fully mature and ready for sale and the company intends to concentrate its trade at the professional market.

Derek, with over 20 years horticultural and marketing experience, set up specialist turf production after leaving Rolawn. He chose the fine sandy soils of the East Ridings to establish a nursery because he believes it produces the best turf grass sward in the country.

"We hope to provide turf of any type, quality and quantity anywhere in the country within 48

hours and at competitive rates, too!" Derek believes that the most crucial factors in the proper establishment of a quality turf crop area: soil type/topography - must be stone-free and of open sandy texture on long flat fields; grass seed selection - Inturf has an exclusive arrangement with Mommersteeg International, who select and mix seed of the highest quality and purity for the turf sowing seasons; ground preparation and sowing - recently developed techniques are employed in order to place the seed at the correct depth and in the correct density and under the very best conditions possible; after care and management - almost continuous and meticulous mowing takes place during the growing season together with carefully planned fertilisation and weed control programmes for the 14 to 20 months it takes to bring a crop up to full maturity and quality ready for transplanting.

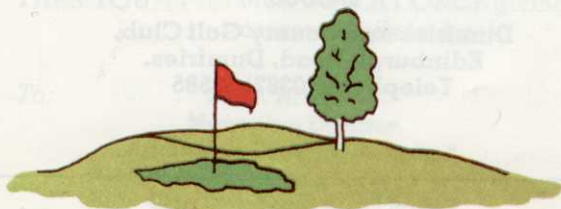
Inturf are at 75 Market Street, Pocklington, York YO4 5AE. Tel: 07592 4101.

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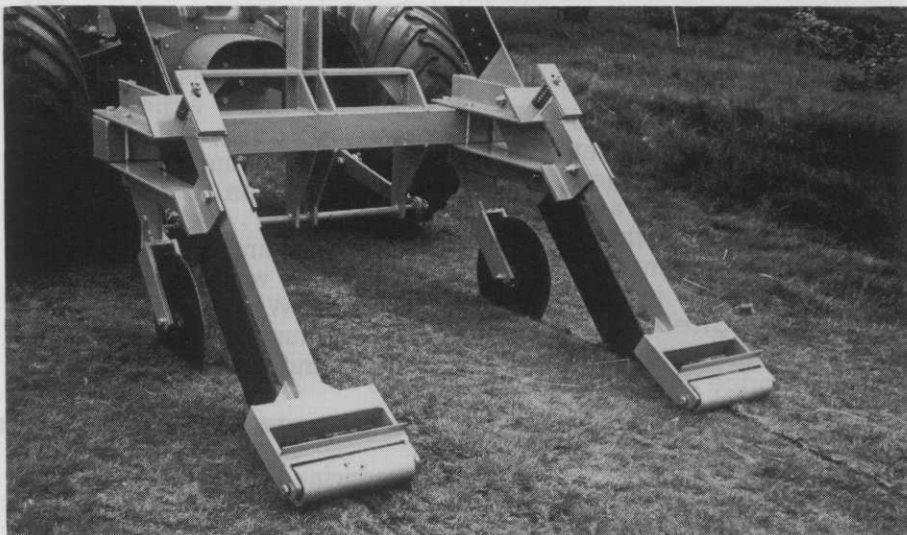
The SISIS Hydrotrac Prime Mover transports and controls a wide range of specially designed implements, including powered gang and rotary mowers, Veemo scarifiers, deep aerators, a spreader, top dresser, sweeper, sprayer, roller, twin mole plough, rakes, brushes and Truplay, a dragmat and transport bucket for maximum versatility on grass or hard porous surfaces. Most existing tractor operated implements can also be operated with the Hydrotrac, especially winter maintenance equipment.

A patented weight transfer system (used on the SISIS Hydromain) on the rear of the Hydrotrac enables extra pressure to be applied to certain implements when required, without the addition of extra weights. There's forward axle drive and power-assisted steering combined with a pivot-steer chassis.

The two-man cab has an opening roof, detachable doors, heater, windscreen wipers and washers front and rear - air conditioning is optional. The Hydrotrac is fitted with full lighting equipment, direction indicators, hazard lights and complies with road regulations.

A new, more compact SISIS Autocrat powered aerator gives a 4in x 4in x 4in tine performance, providing 100 holes per square yard. Twin head adaptors that increase the holes to 180 and 200 respectively are available.

An inbuilt hydraulic system raises and lowers the tine head unit and provides infinitely



The SISIS Hydrotrac fitted with a double mole plough.

variable tine depth control.

Finally, the new SISIS Mk 2 Auto-Turfman is a heavy duty, powered aerator for year-round use on fine turf. There is choice of tines and the overall width is 2ft

5ins. Minimal surface disturbance and absence of load on wheels make it ideal for soft ground conditions. A 3ft spiker-slitter is available for front mounting, as is a transport trolley.



The Autocrat (left) and the Auto-Turfman Mk 2.



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