

# the best on and off the green

## GREENSMASTER 3

The all-hydraulic Greensmaster is the first choice for quality mowing. TORO's height-of-cut adjustment method provides perfectly matched finish while the unique way the grass boxes are mounted ensures a constant height-of-cut regardless of the weight of the grass collected. Totally reliable hydraulic smooth-action traction drive; no belts, chains, clutches or drive cables. The only triplex mower in the world with identical, interchangeable cutting units. That's why TORO Greensmaster 3 is the outstanding greens-mower of our time.

## 70" PROFESSIONAL

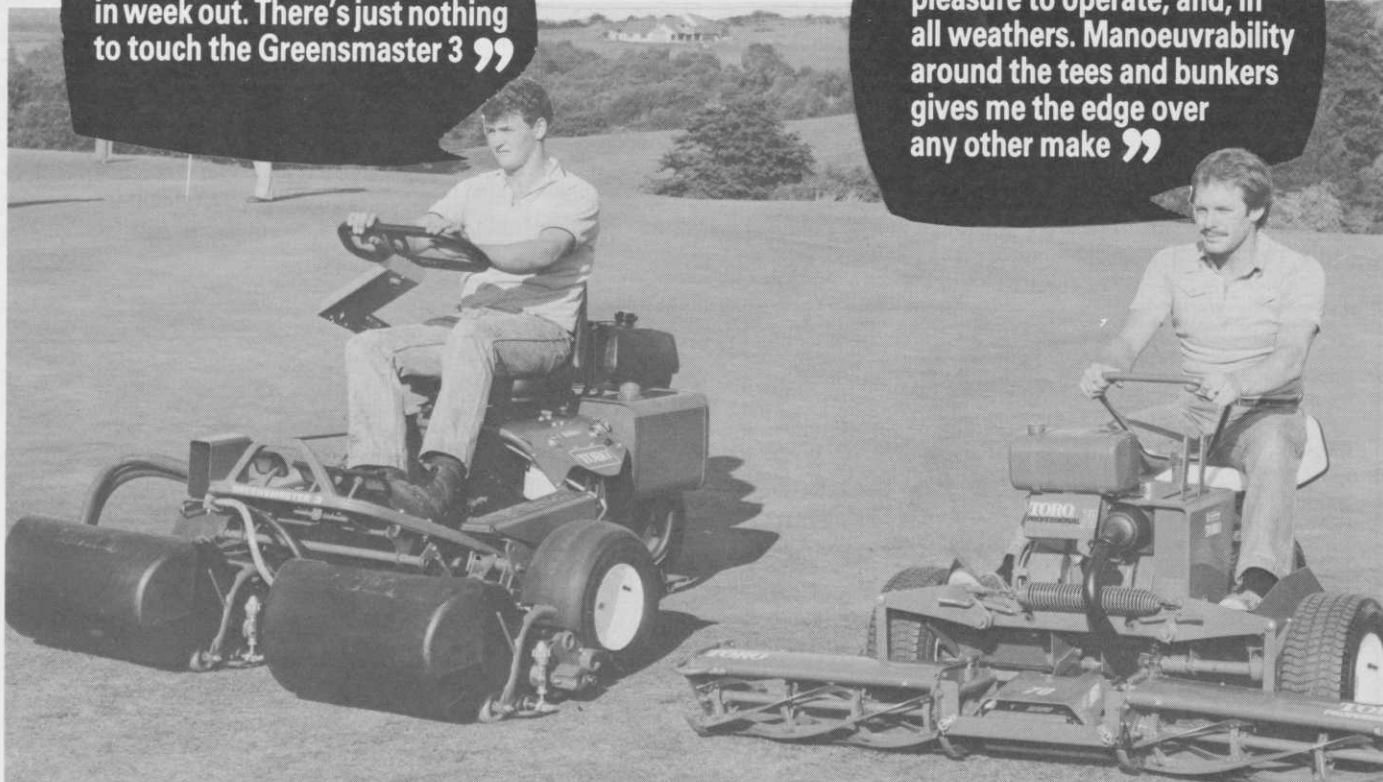
The 70" Professional combines light-weight construction with a reliable and economic power supply for optimum power-to-weight ratio which ensures consistent cutting of dense grass growth even on slopes. Extra low centres of gravity ensures positive traction and unequalled stability on slopes while rear-wheel steering gives outstanding manoeuvrability. Marking and compaction are avoided by the use of low pressure turf tyres.

Give Graham Dale, Sales Manager a call and immediate action will be taken for you to see any machine.

**“This exceptional mower is kind to the most sensitive of greens and you're assured of impeccable performance week in week out. There's just nothing to touch the Greensmaster 3”**

*Have a round on us now!*

**“Outstanding triplex riding mower that's a real pleasure to operate, and, in all weathers. Manoeuvrability around the tees and bunkers gives me the edge over any other make”**



## Grass Regulation Cuts Mowing Costs

Substantial savings in labour time and replacement of worn out grass-cutting machinery have been achieved by head greenkeeper of Glasgow's Eastwood Golf Club Alan McDougall using May & Baker's new grass growth regulator Mowchem.

After using the chemical for one season, Alan believes at least £100 and many hours of cutting can be saved through its application.

One of Scotland's youngest head greenkeepers, having been appointed headman at Eastwood in 1980 aged 22, Alan decided to use Mowchem on a trial basis last year. He was introduced to the product by local distributor Richard Aitken.

Alan—who is SIGGA West section secretary and treasurer—applied Mowchem in mid-May via a C.P. 3 sprayer with six nozzles on a four-foot boom to banks around the clubhouse and between a spinney of trees—areas that require extensive grass management by traditional mowing methods.

Following May & Baker's recommendations, it was found that Mowchem's persistence worked up to at least ten weeks with limited growth coming through after 13 weeks ended by late August rains.

No side-effects or scorch were noticed, even though the period of control saw a drought. The active ingredient of Mowchem—mefluidide—controlled the annual meadow grass, fescues and bents present in the sward, with a suppressant effect on Yorkshire Fog, although it had little effect on smooth stalked meadow grass (Kentucky Blue Grass).

Alan had his confidence in grass growth regulators restored after a



Alan McDougall examines Mowchem treated grass beside Eastwood's clubhouse.

disastrous earlier experiment with Maleic Hydrazide.

"Maleic Hydrazide is like playing Russian Roulette. While it can work reasonably well, it can so easily go against you. We once had a turf disaster area following application of the chemical with a weedkiller. Rain washed the chemical down a slope and caused scorched grass."

It is, however, the economics of using Mowchem that have convinced him. He reckons on burning out at least two hover mowers a season at a replacement cost of £400. Alan calculates that ten litres of Mowchem at £300, applied in the first week of

May and then ten weeks later, will regulate the grass right through the growing season. That's a saving of £100 without taking labour into account.

"This year we intend to spray Mowchem with a tank-mix of herbicide for clover and pearlwort control on banks round the clubhouse, on the tees and greens—in fact, anywhere that traditionally required mowing with a hover. The aim is to cut hover mower work to a minimum. They are not designed to work eight hours a day and the sooner we can get rid of them from the course the better."

# Watermation

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## Be A Dab Hand At Spotting

A treatment rate of about 2,500 weeds an hour for safe and accurate application of a systemic herbicide, without damage to surrounding plants, is claimed for a new, 34in long, lightweight, hand-held tubular dispenser.

The Dab Hand Spot Weeder, from Tavislodge, Great Shelford, Cambridge, has a retractable sponge—spring-loaded and enclosed within a cylindrical guard—for application of minute doses of Tumbleweed, a glyphosate-based chemical. Slight hand pressure on the top of the one inch diameter shaft operates the sponge.

It takes the stooping, bending and uncontrollable drift spray out of traditional methods for control of perennial and annual weeds and grasses.

The 7fl oz herbicide reservoir within the handle will treat approximately 3,000 weeds. The rate of application depends on the density of the weed infestation.

Tests at Notcutt Nurseries, Woodbridge, where the Dab Hand Spot Weeder was developed as a prototype by technical manager Richard Cox, have covered millions of weed-killing operations.

The injection-moulded production model has three O-ring seals to ensure a leak-proof, corrosion-free reservoir for the weed-killing chemical and make it ready for instant use. The weeder is stored in an inverted position when not in use.

The Dab Hand Spot Weeder, including a cartridge of Tumbleweed, costs £14.95 (inc VAT). Full details from Tavislodge, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5AN. Contact Tony Wheeler. Tel: (0223) 841995 /843236 (night).

## Trio Get The Bird Treatment

Three new product lines have been added to the range of turf and grass-care equipment distributed and serviced by R.S. Bird—suppliers to the professional market in South Wales and the mid-west of England.

The equipment, from Lely Iseki, Sewol and Turner, is handled by R.S. Bird's centres at Crossways, near Cowbridge, South Glamorgan; Bancyfelin, near Carmarthen, Dyfed and Veals Lawnmower Services, Easton, Bristol.

Lely Iseki equipment includes the TE, TX and TS ranges of lightweight two and four-wheel drive tractors, comprising 29 models with power outputs from 14.5hp to 38hp. Attachments for the tractors include front-end loaders, dozer blades, flail

and rotary mowers, tillage equipment and a one-ton trailer.

Rugged 18in and 21in rotary mowers with a choice of two and four stroke engines comprise the Sewol product range.

Finally, the company has secured the distributorship of Turner pedestrian and tractor-mounted flail mowers, verge trimmers and snow throwers. Turner machines have established a reputation for reliability, performance and ease of operation and R.S. Bird will be looking to significantly increase the sales of the marque throughout its trading areas with the help of existing customers, demonstrations and a comprehensive workshop and spares back-up service.

For further information, contact Jeffrey Bird on Cowbridge (04463) 4744.



Roger Bird, joint managing director of R.S. Bird, signs the distributing agreement for Turner equipment. Also pictured is Graham Satchwell, sales director of Turner International.

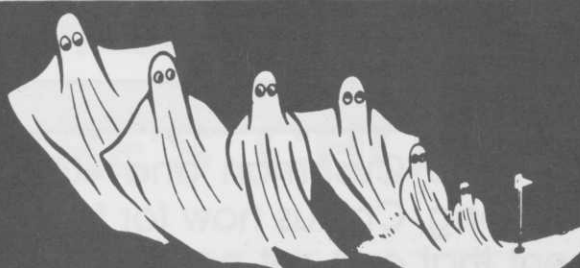
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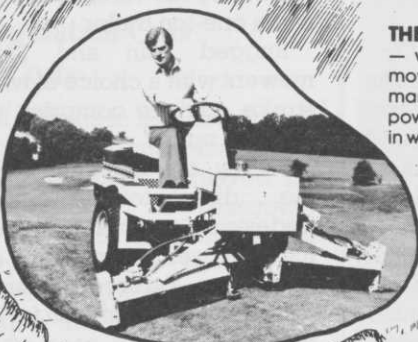


## Surrey Loams Ltd.

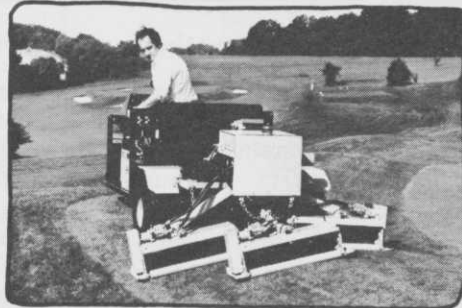
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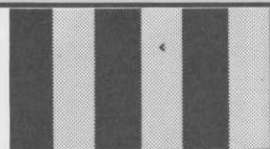
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## Tows Company!

Hazlewood Trailers' range of multi-purpose exhibition sales trailers has become a regular fixture at shows around the country.

Features include a translucent roof, access door, large display doors (12ft

by 6ft) and corner levelling jacks—removable wheels can give a low flat floor. The standard size is 18ft x 7ft 6in x 7ft high and furniture, fittings and awnings are available as extras.

Full details from Hazlewood Engineering, Bishampton Road, Rous Lench, Evesham WR11 4UN. Tel: Evesham (0386) 792916.



Hazlewood's exhibition sales trailer at the recent North-West IOG exhibition at Ribby Hall Park.

## The Magic Of Mascot

Rigby Taylor, of Bolton, Greater Manchester and Guildford, Surrey, has come up with a novel promotional idea for its Mascot range of chemicals.

When you pour a hot drink into one of the company's new china mugs, grass decorations stay while illustrations of weeds disappear!

Richard Lawrence, marketing manager of Rigby Taylor, said: "The effect of our Mascot range is the same as a hot drink in the mug—weeds disappear, while you relax, as if by magic."

The IOG has included an academic advisory section to assist with the content and running of its 1984 examination programme. The members are: Nicholas Bissett—Askham Bryam College; John Byrom—Marlborough College; Barry Dickinson—Norwood Hall; Peter Gillard—Mid-Glamorgan College; Dr Peter Hayes—Sports Turf Research Institute and Norman Sayles—City and Guilds.

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Continued from page 29...

pan and relieving compaction. There is some surface disturbance, but with top dressing afterwards and light mowing, disturbance has been eradicated.

"We started on the Old Course greens in November. We then moved to the heavily compacted areas between the greens and tees and then to the tees themselves and on to the fairways."

Jack McMillan's experience is similar. "We bought the Verti-Drain direct from Charterhouse Turf Machinery in mid-1983 and mounted it initially on a DB 88S. However, the gearing was not satisfactory, so we purchased an Iseki unit with a gearing down to a quarter of a mile per hour forward speed, which marries up perfectly with the Verti-Drain.

"In the autumn of 1983, we managed to aerate the greens and approaches of both the New and the Old Course down to an average depth of eight inches. This was after some early problems when the soil was too dry and the machine created a rippling effect. However, after remedial treatment with the Sisis Autocrat, hollow-tining and a wetting agent, the soil was ideal for the Verti-Drain.

Although there was still some considerable surface disturbance after top dressing and mowing, all areas quickly returned to normal.

"The effect has been dramatic—I believe it's the lift and heave that gives the most benefit. It obviously promotes better drainage and a healthier root structure and we are

already getting more growth in the previously highly compacted areas.

"I am continuing to experiment with the Verti-Drain, but I am sure that it is a valuable aid to beating compaction and achieving a better medium for long-rooting grasses to prosper. It will certainly help us with our year round aeration programme."

### Rigby Taylor Tie-Up With German Giant

BASF, one of the world's largest chemical producers, has not yet ventured into the amenity turf market despite a heavy involvement in UK agriculture. The company does, however, have a strong range of suitable products that are market leaders in Europe.

Brian Beech, pesticides manager of BASF UK, recently announced that: "Following an intensive study of the UK amenity market, BASF has decided to market Contact turf fungicide and Systemic turf fungicide through Rigby Taylor under the Mascot label. These products are for the control of fusarium, dollar spot, grey snow, mould, red thread and leaf spot.

"The choice of Rigby Taylor was

due to a number of factors highlighted in the market survey—in particular, Rigby Taylor's existing penetration of the amenity market and the company's ability to provide a complete service and range of products to users nationally."

Richard Lawrence, Rigby Taylor's marketing manager, said: "We are delighted BASF has demonstrated its confidence in Rigby Taylor, which we are sure will have tremendous benefits for all our customers. Since the introduction of the Mascot range in early 1983, my chairman Derek Phillips and the entire Rigby Taylor personnel have shown a commitment to the Mascot range, which has brought an excellent response.

"You can be sure that this exciting new development for the UK market will be followed by additional Mascot products in the near future."

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High Quality Golf Green Top Dressing (FENDRESS) available in bulk loads of 15—18—20 tonnes, delivered anywhere U.K. mainland.

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## Jim Arthur Continued...

walk-off areas or even reseeding entire fairways, to even speak civilly to anyone, including the odd golf course architect, who advises its use.

Since we want fine-textured turf and ryegrass is an unmitigated nuisance, why not start the way we want to end and use bent and fescue only? With a straight bent/fescue fairway mixture on one course that I was involved in they were playing on sown fairways 13 months from the start of construction, let alone seeding. I sometimes see crested dog's tail included and the result is a mass of 'whinnel straws' that no cylinder gang mower can cut.

How, then, can the grasses that make the best golfing turf be identified quickly? All the meadow grasses share one common characteristic—their leaves are folded, with a pronounced double mid rib and very obvious boat-shaped tip. Smooth-stalked meadow grass, with its deep rhizomes, is the Kentucky blue grass of the States (sometimes used on tees) and its colour gives it

away at once. Rough-stalked has no value, but usually forms a rough, 'plucked-up' looking turf, as its surface runners get roughed up—for instance, when mown.

The *Agrostis* family has less unique characteristics, but the rather fibrous, flat leaves (save for needle-leaved bent) have no mid rib, but markedly ribbed upper surfaces, so that the turf always looks dull, never shiny. If, in fact, you identify as *Agrostis* one of the similar rarer grasses, no-one will blame you and few will argue!

The fine fescues are easy to identify—they are very needle-leaved, especially in dry weather, but remember there are meadow fescues with luxuriant growth, flat, huge, shiny, lush green leaves and bright red bases to the stems, rather like Italian ryegrass, but you will not find these on golf courses, save by accident. I did once on an area of course extension sown to a mixture, supposedly bent/fescue and supplied by a local seed firm, but they supplied bent and meadow fescue. It still grows a silage crop every year.

Remember, not all fine fescues make good golfing turf—tussock-like sheep's fescue is really a weed and never forms a close-knit turf because of its whorled habit of growth.

In the weed group, look for shiny backs to leaves—ryegrass and dog's

tail and soft, hairy patches of Yorkshire fog, bleached by frost. I would rather have Yorkshire fog than ryegrass—at least in summer—as with regular mowing and verticutting it stays fine and does not interfere with putting and, in any case, it can be checked and often controlled by full strength selective weedkilling in flush periods of growth, whereas ryegrass never dies out.

Extensive exchanging of ryegrass-free areas between the huge double greens on the Old Course at St Andrews to replace ryegrass, introduced literally over the previous 60 years into main pin placement areas, has been necessary, since nothing could get rid of the ryegrass and fine-textured though it was, it still affected putting by Open Championship standards. Then some people defending the use of ryegrass 'as a nurse' say it will not survive close mowing!

In passing, we are perhaps too purist about grass and a botanical survey of these old greens, which I carried out some years ago, showed no less than 17 different species of grass! At least it is far better than having just one—solid annual meadow grass, all too characteristic of past decades of over-feeding and over-watering in search of that Great God Green!

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# Appointments



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Salary negotiable but will be attractive and commensurate with this important position.

*Write in the first instance, giving full details of training, experience and present salary, to:—*

*The Secretary,*  
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*Golf Course Lane,*  
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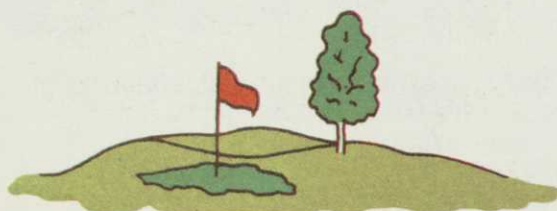
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