

## People, Places, Products

Astbury Golf Club, near Congleton in Cheshire, certainly believes in greenkeeper training. Dennis Mortram, senior lecturer at Reaseheath College, is seen presenting the SISIS Trophy to Alan Frost, the best greenkeeping student at the college for 1985. Also present are Alan Huxley, the head greenkeeper who recently received the Frank Goddard Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in last year's IOG national intermediate diploma, Mathew Jordan, who is attending phase two greenkeeping at Reaseheath, Derek Aartse-Tugn, who is attending phase one at the college, and John Galbraith.



Setting a fine example - staff of Astbury GC.

**Supaturf Products of Oxney Road, Peterborough has appointed Mark Osborne its new rep for the West Midlands, Gloucestershire and South Wales. Mark, 22, is married with two children and lives in Hereford. He will be working from the newly opened West Midlands depot at Hartlebury near Kidderminster, under area manager Edward Hewitt.**



Mark Osborne.

The STRI will hold two courses in the spring on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses last for five days (Monday to Friday) and cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers and machinery. The commencing dates are February 17 and 24, with a third course commencing March 3 if there is

sufficient demand for places. The fee is £90 for members and £110 for non-members plus VAT (exclusive of accommodation and meals). Further details from The Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Tel: 0274 565131.

The winner of a £200 luxury hamper in the SISIS crossword competition was Derek Neve, head greenkeeper at Carlisle GC. Runners-up, who each received a case of wine, were: J. Brown (West Lothian District Council), R. Miles (Erskine GC, Bishopton), K. Beck (Middlesbrough Municipal GC), D. Dobbins (Nottinghamshire County Council), J. Fazackerley (Preston Sports Club), T. Tench (Sandiway GC), G. Hughes (Abergele & Pensarn GC), M. Moore (Oxford United FC), J. Mclean (North Bedfordshire Borough Council), R. Hebbert (Slough Corporation), D. Topliffe (London Borough of Greenwich), R. McLaren (Worcestershire CCC) and D. Davis (West Wiltshire District Council).

Last year, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies topped the £1 million barrier in two more export markets on opposite sides of the globe. Sales to Australia were up 25 per cent and, shipments to France were 40 per cent up on last year. Ransomes France spent two days

at Ipswich recently, learning more about the sales features and servicing of the range.

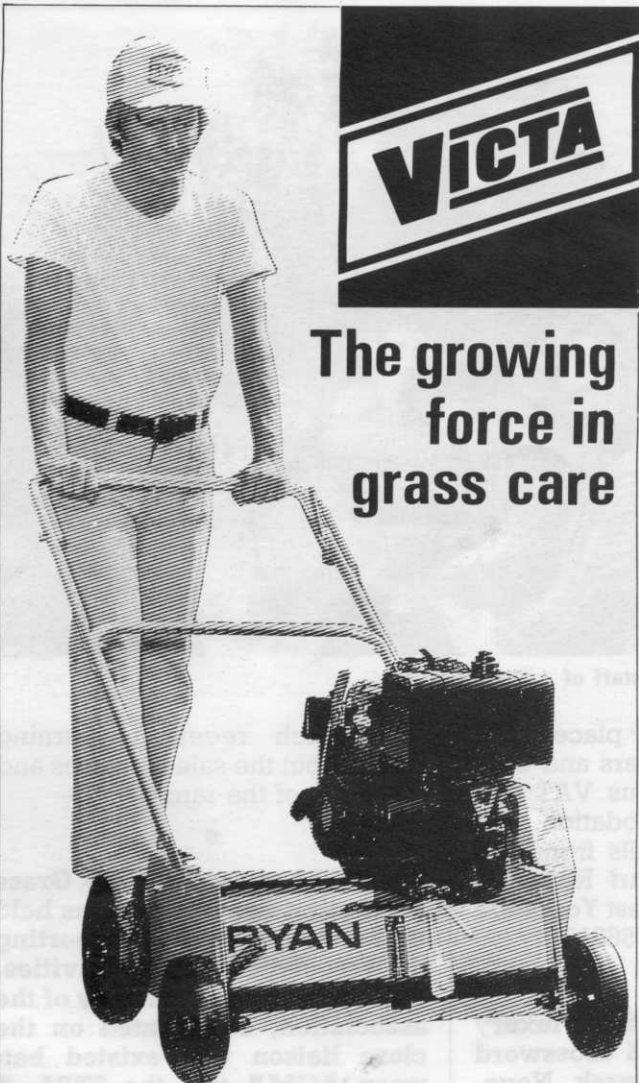
The AGM of the Amenity Grass Marketing Association was held in London recently. Reporting the association's 1985 activities, David Hamilton, secretary of the association, commented on the close liaison that existed between AGMA and the STRI. A collaborative trial of ryegrass cultivars at various sites is to continue during 1986. Elected for the coming year were Brian Hubbert as chairman and Mike Beattie as vice-chairman.

The St Mellion Golf and Country Club in Cornwall has taken delivery of the new TORO Reelmaster 350D - the first to be supplied to a golf club in the south-west.

Michael Britton, manager of Robertson of Newton Abbot, said: "We thought that the 350D was best capable of standing up to the climatic conditions that prevail in the West Country."

The TORO Reelmaster 350D is a 38hp diesel powered ride-on mowing machine with five cutting cylinders, which can be used together or individually in any combination, with an 11½ft width of cut. Special features include variable hydrostatic drive to the wheels and variable speed drive

*Continued on page 23...*



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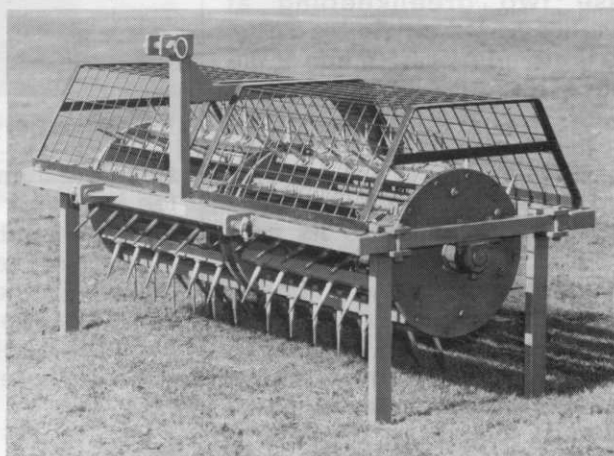
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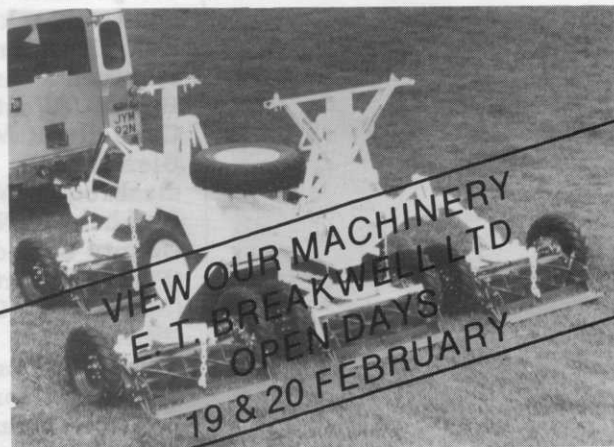
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to the cutting cylinders.

Twin main driving wheels with large low pressure tyres and low centre of gravity enable the machine to operate on soft ground and to mow steep slopes. Rear wheel steering aids manoeuvrability in awkward areas, where the variable cutting width is advantageous.

At the TORO companies annual distributor convention held in Minneapolis recently, Lely (UK) was honoured for the best overall performance in the area of international after sales service for both the domestic and professional product ranges and participation in all of TORO's service programmes in service dealer coverage.

TORO also has manufacturing plants in California and Canada, together with joint production facilities in Venezuela, New Zealand and Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk.

Lely (UK) was formed by John Hawkins in 1968 as the UK marketing operation of Lely Industries, a manufacturer of agricultural equipment in Holland. Lely is also the distributor for Iseki tractors from Japan and Beaver attachments produced in Sussex. The company has been the UK distributor of TORO for two years.

Some £25,000 is to be spent on The Belfry's Derby Course to bring it into line with the Brabazon. A programme of landscaping, tree planting, deep-spiking, topsoil and peat application and additional drainage, including bunkers, is underway. The 6,077-yard Derby was designed for those seeking a less-demanding test than the Brabazon.

Golf Landscapes is building and irrigating a new 18-hole public golf course on Canvey Island, Essex. The work is valued at £220,000.

The course utilises PM Greens, the technique based on the Prunty Mulqueen patented system, containing an intensively drained formation with a sand/peat rootzone. A similar construction will probably be us-



St Mellion's head greenkeeper drives in the new acquisition. St Mellion director Hermon Bond is also pictured.

ed on the tees.

A fully automatic TORO irrigation system will be provided to the greens and tees and is to be of a single head control type, similar to that recently installed by Golf Landscapes at the Berkshire. Golf Landscapes will maintain the new golf course under a contract agreement until later in the year when it will be handed over to the local council.

constructing a new 18-hole golf course at Milgate Park, near Maidstone in Kent, as well as reconstructing seven greens and 12 tees at Weymouth GC as part of a £250,000 project.

The company recently completed major earthmoving and shaping of clubhouse surrounds and a new practice area for Broadstone and is currently reconstructing tees at Marlborough and working at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) is



Ram Kumar, managing director of Toro International, Bob Orthey, marketing director, and John Hawkins, managing director of Lely Import.

## New National Sales Manager makes history at Supaturf!

For the first time in the 25 year history of Supaturf Products Limited, they have appointed a National Sales Manager for England and Wales following the nationwide expansion of the depots. The man appointed to the post is Frank Crookson, previously Supaturf's Northern Area Manager, who has worked for the company for the past 6 years.

Frank, who is 52 and has a 23 year old daughter, lives with his wife Joan in Birdwell, not far from the Normanton depot for which he is responsible. He is interested in football and motor sports — particularly Grand Prix and says, "I am looking forward to working with the Supaturf sales staff — I feel we represent an excellent mixture of youth and experience, and it will be my responsibility to blend these qualities into a first class team".



## It's all in the good book!

Supaturf have now produced a product guide, setting out in sections all the products supplied by Supaturf, from fertilisers and chemicals to sports equipment — together with prices and details of delivery etc.



For your copy contact your nearest Supaturf depot:

**Northern Area**  
Unit 2, Ripley Close, Normanton, Wakefield, W. Yorks WF6 1TB.  
Tel: (0924) 891000.

**Southern Area**  
Dromenagh Farm, Seven Hills Road, Iver Heath, Bucks.  
Tel: (0895) 832626/834198.

**South West Area**  
D. O. Hunt Limited, 14 Fairfax Road, Heathfield, Newton Abbot TQ12 6UD.  
Tel: (0626) 834499.

**West Midlands & South Wales Area**  
Unit 104B, Hartlebury Trading Estate, Kidderminster, Wores.  
Tel: (0299) 250087.

**Head Office** Oxney Rd, Peterborough, PE1 5YZ. Tel: (0733) 68384.

## Supaturf help pave the way in weed control

New cda (controlled droplet application) CLEARWAY from May & Baker can be used anywhere that total long-lasting weed control is required — e.g. footpaths, along fence lines and around the base of established trees. Clearway controls most annual and perennial broad-leaved and grass weeds in amenity and industrial non-cropped land.

cda VERDONE from ICI controls all common broad-leaved weeds in turf within two to four weeks. Verdone is absorbed by leaves and roots and interferes with the normal growth regulation process — as a result, weed growth becomes abnormally stimulated and distorted before the weeds die.

These products now available from Supaturf.

## Spring Fertilisers

Supaturf fertilisers are made from a mixture of carefully selected organic materials and mineral fertilisers in such a way that the plant food is released in a controlled pattern similar to the normal growth pattern of plants to ensure that the plant has food available during the whole seasons' growth.

Unlike some chemical fertilisers, Supaturf's are safe to sow with seeds and do not inhibit germination. Supaturf SS/A, SS/D, SS/P and all pelleted fertilisers such as PS/OP are available from your local depot.

## NEW BASF SLOW RELEASE FERTILISER

The recently introduced range of BASF Compo Floranid slow release fertilisers is meeting with approval and good results are being obtained throughout the UK.

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## Looking After Our Heritage At The Home Of Golf

The trustees of the St Andrews links, charged by act of parliament with the efficient stewardship of all aspects of the links, have initiated action that will shape the future of golf there well into the next century.

At a joint meeting of the St Andrews Links Trust and St Andrews Links Management Committee, it was agreed that a comprehensive long-term plan should be prepared to 'cover all facets of potential development and improvement of the link's.

Golf clubs in St Andrews, including the Royal and Ancient, as well as the North East Fife District Council, St Andrews University and the Scottish Tourist Board, were invited to contribute.

It is expected that outline proposals should be available for discussion in the spring. Anyone with views on the matter is invited to write to the Secretary, St Andrews Links Trust, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9JA.

Meanwhile, the St Andrews Links Trust has sold the Rusack's

Marine Hotel to Trusthouse Forte. The 50 bedroom hotel offers views of the Old Course's 1st and 18th holes and was acquired by the trust in 1982 to provide showers, changing and locker rooms and dining facilities, all of which came to fruition when the Links Rooms were opened in 1983.

The sale will provide substantial capital for the St Andrews links development plan. The priority is to ensure an improvement in the basic health and quality of the turf and, to this end, recommendations by consultant agronomist Jim Arthur are being followed.

At least £200,000 will be spent solely on the turf, over and above normal maintenance costs, up to 1987. Additional Verti-Drain equipment, together with maximum recommended volumes of Farmura and increased use of Fenpeat, are expected to ensure the return of exemplary playing surfaces to all St Andrews courses.

## Good News All Round For Souter

Souter of Stirling (Sportsturf) has been appointed sole Scottish distributor of Rigby Taylor's Mascot range, which now includes Ultra Sonic, a combination of simazine and glyphosate, as part of the Sonic (glyphosate) line.

Souter is to design and build a new golf course in the Spey Valley. And, after its success with the Maltese national football stadium, the company has been awarded contracts for seven more pitches. Souter has now installed five underground heating systems at soccer grounds and has recently been appointed technical consultant and constructor of the first new racecourse to be built in the UK since the early 1950s - at Musselburgh.

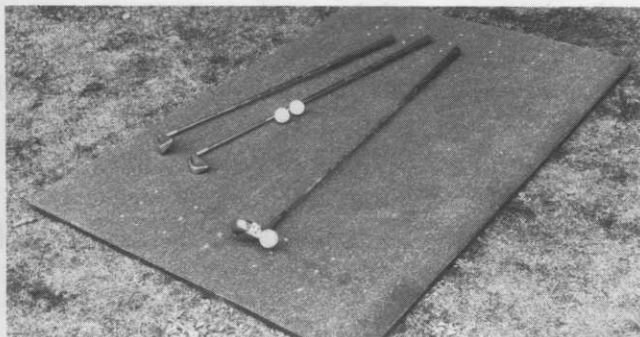
To cap it all, John Souter has been made an honorary member of the Sports Turf Manager's Association of America and addresses the association's conference at San Francisco in February.

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FOR TEE SHOTS



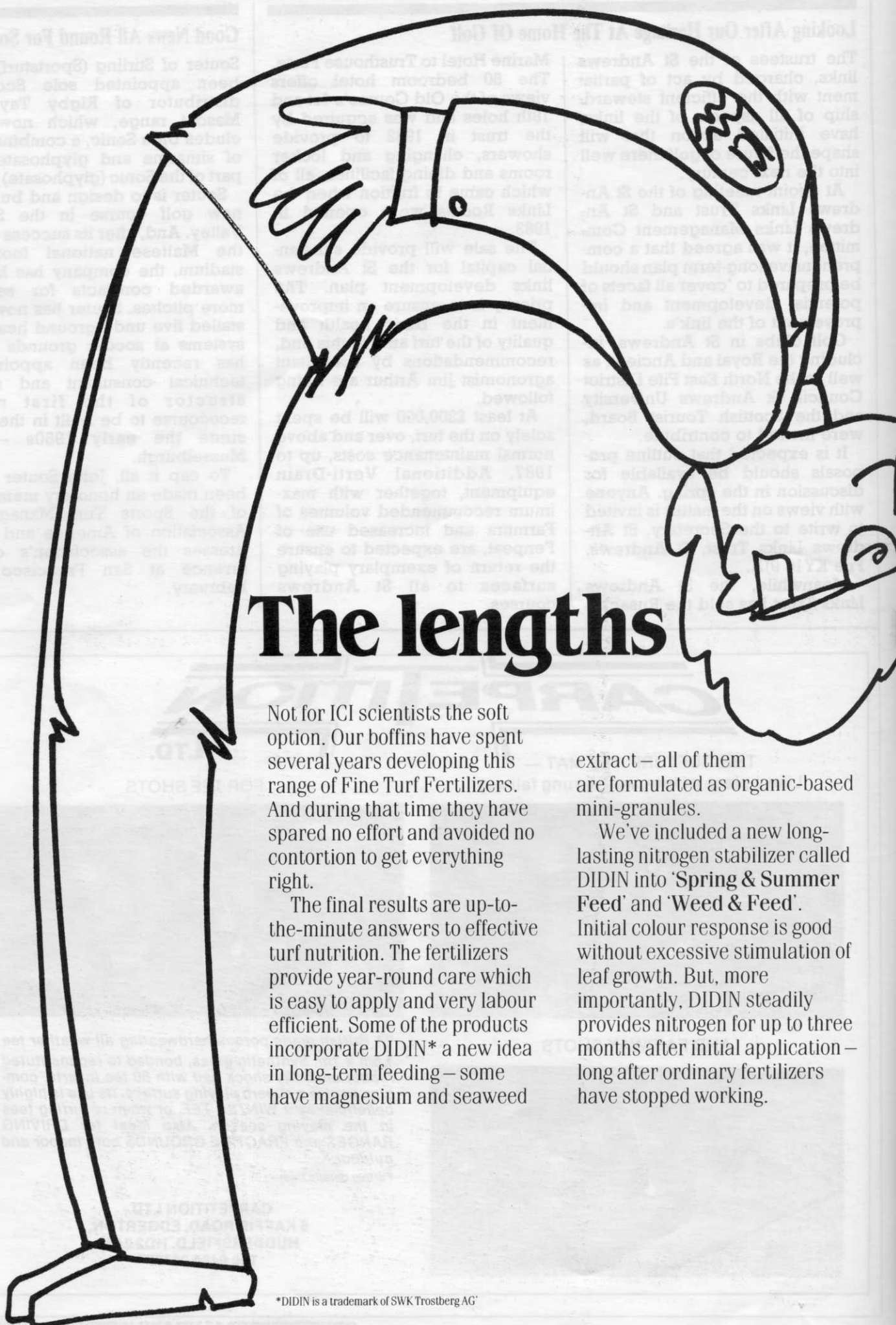
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The final results are up-to-the-minute answers to effective turf nutrition. The fertilizers provide year-round care which is easy to apply and very labour efficient. Some of the products incorporate DIDIN\* a new idea in long-term feeding – some have magnesium and seaweed

extract – all of them are formulated as organic-based mini-granules.

We've included a new long-lasting nitrogen stabilizer called DIDIN into 'Spring & Summer Feed' and 'Weed & Feed'. Initial colour response is good without excessive stimulation of leaf growth. But, more importantly, DIDIN steadily provides nitrogen for up to three months after initial application – long after ordinary fertilizers have stopped working.

\*DIDIN is a trademark of SWK Trostberg AG'



# our boffins have gone to.

Another new idea is 'Nitro-Iron' which contains no phosphates. The 7:0:1 formula is boosted with 3% Iron to provide good green up and efficient moss control.

For winter hardiness there is 'Autumn & Winter Feed'. In this formula the major plant foods are supplemented by both magnesium and iron.

As you can see our boffins have bent over backwards producing the right fertilizers for today's market – the least you can do is try them.



# Fine Turf Fertilizers.



## Professional Products

ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: (0252) 724525.

## Alginure's Latest Additive

A new product has been introduced to supplement the benefits of Alginure Soil Improver and Alginure Root Dip.

The company's objective was to develop a base liquid that retains a higher proportion of gums (or solids). Such solids are available in Alginure Soil Improver and form the essential polysaccharides that are a vital source of food for soil micro-organisms, which functions include the digestion of organic matter that produces humus and, in turn, releases plant foods.

The new Alginure base liquid has a solids content in excess of 25 per cent, almost double that of other organic liquid feeds, the company says. This can be enriched, as needed, by the addition of specific plant foods to meet the requirements of particular applications, such as turf-care, tree and shrub maintenance and other horticultural uses.

The company's first such formulation - Alginure Turf Liquid - will be introduced at *Turfscape '86*, where samples of the product will be available for trials and testing.

The liquid is economical, with an application rate of 200 litres per hectare, diluted in an equal amount of water, and is compatible with existing herbicides and fungicides. This usage equates to 16-20 litres per average golf green.

Full details from Alginure Products, Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 9BT. Tel: 089275 664.

## Turnberry Appointment

George Brown, previously with the Broome Park Golf and Country Club in Kent, has been appointed golf course and estates superintendent at Turnberry.

George was at Broome Park from its opening in 1980. Prior to that, he was course manager at Princes Golf Club, Sandwich. He takes over the position at Turnberry formerly held by Russell Brown, who died recently. "The Turnberry team can be proud of the work that has been done in preparation for the Open. The course is in fine condition," he said.

## Mountfield Mounts New Campaign

The Mountfield Triple M is on the market, with an all-new electric start, priced £2,599 (plus VAT).

Wide, 'turf saver' tyres will carry the tractor safely over rough ground. A low centre of gravity keeps the Triple M stable on most slopes and the machine's manoeuvrability means it can mow close to any obstruction.

Power comes from an 8hp Briggs and Stratton engine, guaranteed for two years, while its new electronic magnetron ignition system has a five-year warranty. Five forward gears and one reverse give a choice of mowing speeds up to 6½mph.

Cutting height is adjustable between ½in and 2in, while the cylinder positions can be varied to give up to 66in of mowing width on almost any grassed terrain. All adjustments can be made quickly and simply. The cutters are spring-assisted for easy raising and for extra safety they cannot be engaged when lifted or when the seat is unoccupied. They can also be removed, without tools, to create a year-round tow truck or tractor.

Full details from G.D. Mountfield, Reform Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8DQ. Tel: 0628 39161.

## A Compact Combination

The Lely Iseki 2140 4WD is now available with spray equipment from the Berkshire-based company Frank Driver. Designed for use with a standard three-point linkage, it can also be supplied as a trailed unit.

In the horizontal position, the booms can spray a 10ft width with ease. Vertically, the equipment can negotiate the narrow aisles of a greenhouse or orchard. The mechanical pump is direct-driven from the Lely Iseki tractor pto and delivers a working pressure of 40psi. A pressure control valve and gauge ensures constant results with a minimum of setting-up time. Hydraulically driven pumps are an optional extra.

A full choice of quick-release nozzles are available, providing total control from fine spray to flood. Any combination of spray nozzles can be set to give a left, centre or righthand spray. Additionally, one or both booms can be positioned vertically.

The 25 gallon tank incorporates an agitation booster for consistency and a delivery filter is fitted as standard. Also available is a new mini-sprayer fitted with micronair heads.

Full details from Lely Iseki Tractors, Crosshall Works, Gt North Road, Eaton Ford, Cambs PE19 1QH. Tel: 0480 76971.

The Lely Iseki 2140 4WD with spray equipment.





# Pruning tree branches and treating subsequent wounds

AT most clubs, the greenstaff are hard pushed to carry out all the required maintenance and cultivation of turf, let alone attempt to keep trees in first-class condition. This means that often the only work carried out is the removal of branches to favour the growth of other plants.

By David Francis

Removing branches permits light to the grass and herbaceous undergrowth and also helps increase air circulation, which improves the turf's quality. Occasionally, other factors influence branch removal, such as preventing dead or unsafe branches causing damage to golfers and property, and also allowing access to golfers.

Pruning only out of necessity is probably no bad thing for trees, as the improper pruning of branches is one of the most damaging injuries they can have inflicted upon them.

The bark acts like a skin, protecting the inner wood from micro-organisms that can cause deterioration. A poorly made pruning wound can expose the heartwood of the tree trunk and it is often invaded by fungal organisms that can, in time, cause decay, instability and the tree's possible death.

In the past, it was recognised arboricultural practice to remove branches as flush to the trunk as possible and then to paint the wound with a proprietary sealant with the intention of protecting the wood until it had callused over.

However, research work carried out in recent years by Dr Alex Shigo of the United States Forestry Service suggests that trees are able to chemically set up boundaries of resistance against advancing fungal pathogens and prevent the fungal decay reaching the trunk. This wall of resistance appears to occur in the branch collar which, on most trees, appears where the branch joins the trunk.

The main problem in the past has been that the existing method of cutting branches flush to the trunk removed this branch collar and so removed the site of resistance to decay organisms. Hence, the fungal pathogen gained access into the heartwood of the trunk and the decay process began unchallenged. So, to apply these theories on a practical basis, the removal of branches growing from the trunk should take the following course.

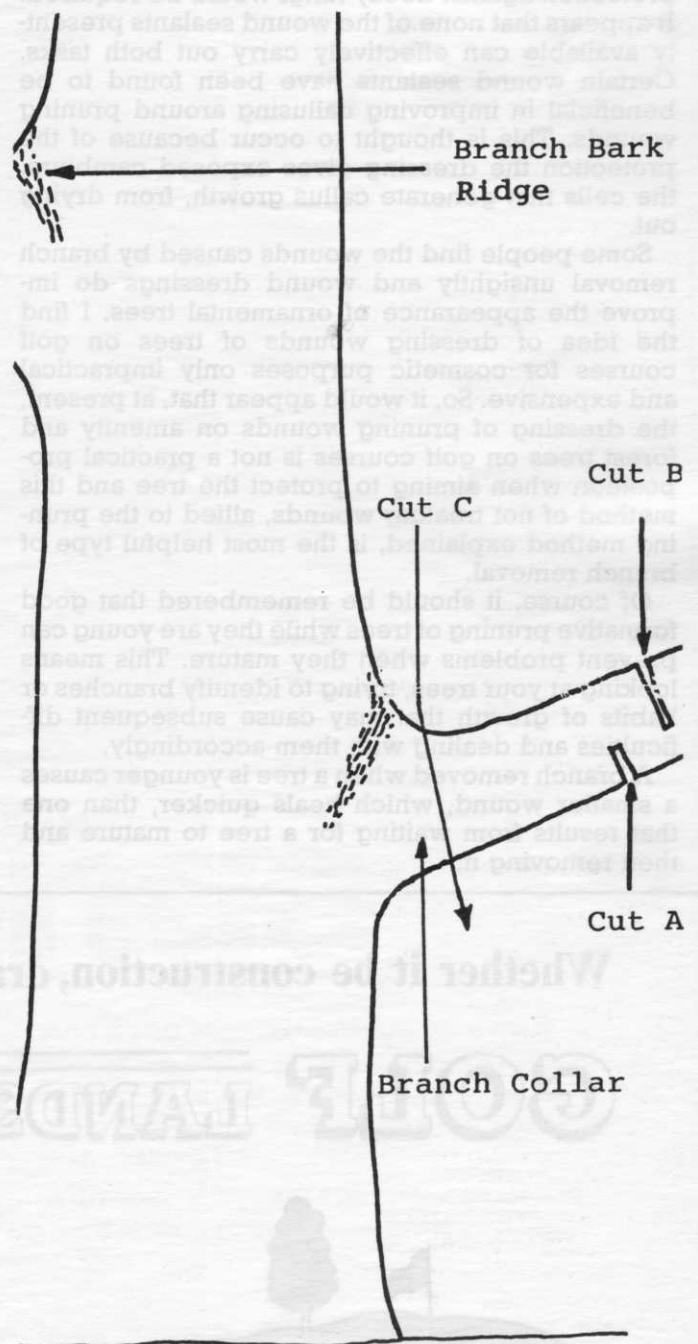
First, as in any branch removal, the main weight of the branch must be removed before the final cut is made. The branch should be undercut approximately one third of its diameter (A). This will prevent the branch from tearing the bark away down the trunk. Then, several inches out from the undercut, make a top cut (B) down through the branch. This will remove the main weight of the branch, leaving you with a stub that must then be removed.

The final cut should be made just in front of the

branch collar and not through it (C) and never through the branch bark ridge as this will expose the trunk's inner wood. Leaving this collar will result in the protective boundary being left intact and also a smaller wound to the tree than would result with flush cutting.

Theoretically, wound sealants were applied for a

*Continued overleaf...*





## PRUNING CONTINUED...

number of reasons. It was thought they would act as a physical barrier over the exposed wood, preventing fungal spores from entering. However, various authorities have now suggested that fungal spores may infect the wood before the dressing can be applied and, in the long term, entrances for fungal spores can still appear as the sealant cracks or insects bore holes through it.

So, long-term protection is practically impossible at present. Applying wound sealants with fungicidal properties to chemically destroy decay fungi is also under question. A fungicide that effectively controls fungi already infecting the wound before application and that also gives long-term protection against decay fungi would be required. It appears that none of the wound sealants presently available can effectively carry out both tasks. Certain wound sealants have been found to be beneficial in improving callusing around pruning wounds. This is thought to occur because of the protection the dressing gives exposed cambium, the cells that generate callus growth, from drying out.

Some people find the wounds caused by branch removal unsightly and wound dressings do improve the appearance of ornamental trees. I find the idea of dressing wounds of trees on golf courses for cosmetic purposes only impractical and expensive. So, it would appear that, at present, the dressing of pruning wounds on amenity and forest trees on golf courses is not a practical proposition when aiming to protect the tree and this method of not treating wounds, allied to the pruning method explained, is the most helpful type of branch removal.

Of course, it should be remembered that good formative pruning of trees while they are young can prevent problems when they mature. This means looking at your trees, trying to identify branches or habits of growth that may cause subsequent difficulties and dealing with them accordingly.

A branch removed when a tree is younger causes a smaller wound, which heals quicker, than one that results from waiting for a tree to mature and then removing it.

## Apprentice Corner

### ANTHRACNOSE (*Colletotrichum graminicola*)

*Although this disease usually affects **Poa annua**, it can also occur on various species of grass. It is easily recognised because the fungus produces a black lesion at the base of the sheath, which can be seen by removing the older sheaths. The whole root base turns black and the growing point is often destroyed. Shoots affected turn yellow with the youngest leaf turning red. However, the presence of the black lesion is particularly characteristic as the disease is often seen when the soil is very compacted. It follows that regular aeration should be carried out to prevent the build up of excessive compaction. Low fertiliser application is also associated with the incidence of this disease.*

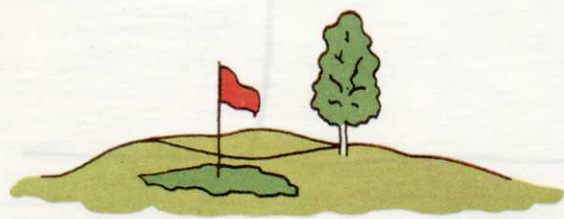


Anthracnose.

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