

TRADE TOPICS

■ Talking with Jon Allbutt recently I learned that despite a lapse of 15 months since the introduction of the COSHH Regulations many Clubs are still deferring a decision to carry out risk assessments. This prompts me to suggest that they might do well to listen to some of their colleagues who are currently labouring under Enforcement Notices issued by Inspectors after a visit and inspection. There is also some action being undertaken by Inspectors under the Control of Pollution Act where it was found that disposal arrangements were inadequate and considered to be a source of river pollution. The River Authorities are also active in investigating sources of high levels of pesticides in water. This is not the professional approach that is expected of our industry. Need help? Perhaps Jon is your man – call him on 0959 75575.

■ The exceptionally hot summer of 1990 found many greenkeepers in trouble, with recommended greases melting, causing turf damage and leaving unsightly marks. The green staff at New Zealand GC, Surrey, discovered a grease previously used in the bakery industry that enabled them to extend the lube intervals from a recommended once daily to once every five days on their turf aerators. The procedure for just one machine was reduced from 7.5 hours weekly to just one application taking 1.5 hours, and the synthetic grease, made by Pen Lubrication Ltd, Woking, (tel: 0483 765233) did not melt.

■ John Deere's commitment to the groundcare market in the UK has increased further with the announcement of two new dealer franchises in Suffolk and Lancashire. The signings – with Tomlinson Groundcare of Stowmarket and Cornthwaite Farm Equipment of Ormskirk – coincide with the introduction of a number of new machines for the pro. market including riding mowers, lawn tractors and trimmers.



Douglas Walker, M.D. of John Deere, with Cornthwaite's Groundcare Manager, Walter Pearson

■ Supaturf Products Ltd of Narborough, Leicester, have introduced a new, totally organic fertiliser to their amenity range named Greenex. Specially prepared to a 5: 0: 3 formula for fine turf areas where quality is important, it can be used from January to October. The nitrogen content is made of organic materials such as hoof & horn, dried blood, seaweed meal and cocoa shell, formulated to release nutrients that correspond to normal growth patterns of grass in prevailing climatic conditions. A descriptive brochure is available, Tel: 0533 750256.

■ Available from Mommersteeg, A Seedsman's Guide to Amenity Grasses is a most useful little manual, covering sowing techniques, weed invasion, land reclamation etc. With many illustrations, a copy may be obtained from Mommersteeg Seed Co. Finedon, Wellingborough, NN9 5NT.

■ The HSE have issued a new guidance note: (GS 48) Training Standards of Competence for Users of Chainsaws. It sets out the guidelines for the selection of chainsaw operators, their training and certification. Having seen some pretty bloody accidents I feel this is long overdue and all who have chainsaws will need to check that they comply. The Guidance Note also sets out the Levels of Certification and who the recognised training bodies are. Inspectors use these Notes when inspecting premises and will be expecting employers to be aware of them and have taken action to meet the standards. Being warned is one thing, being trained is another... perhaps another case for calling Jon Allbutt?

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