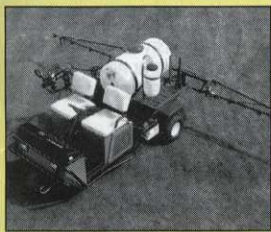


# TRADE TOPICS



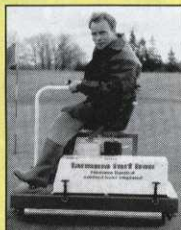
■ Hardi Ltd, already active in the amenity and local authority spraying equipment field, has announced the formation of a new 'Green Care' Division

containing machines and specialist back up support for Hardi sprayers that are appropriate for the amenity market

Examples are the Hardi BL mounted sprayers and the PS demount model, which fits Cushman and similar power units. There are also the well known Hardi knapsack and KS and TR wheelbarrow and power types for use around buildings, parks, etc, and machines designed for pick-up mounting and for use with ATVs.

■ T. Parker & Sons and Roffey Brothers Ltd. have launched the new Parker liquid fertilisers and turf feeds. Parker Turfmaster is a foliar feed and stimulant based on fermented seaweed with good levels of nitrogen, potash and sulphur designed to increase the density of a fine fescue/bent sward and to encourage the breakdown of thatch. Parker liquid fertilisers offer a range of high analysis nutrients for use on lighter soils where leaching of nutrients can cause environmental problems or where pressure of play precludes the application of more traditional fertilisers. Available as liquids in N; NK or NPK, the fertilisers are easy to apply through standard spraying equipment. Tel: (Parkers) 081 337 7791 (Roffey Bros) 0202 537777

■ Watermation have introduced a new tensiometer – the Hydrovisor – which is buried in the ground close to the solenoid operating the sprinkler. It is designed to work along with the TW2 irrigation controller causing the irrigation to 'skip' an area should moisture retention be sufficient at root level. To draw water from the soil plants must use suction. The amount of suction the plant must use is determined by how tightly the water is being held by the soil. As the plant pulls the water from the soil the remaining water adheres to the soil particles with increasing force. As a result, the suction required to remove it also increases. This force is called the soil matric potential (also referred to as soil tension, root stress or soil suc-



■ With growing interest in the Turf Iron, Farmura have appointed three dealers: Ernest Doe & Son in Essex, (0245-380311); Bedfordia in Bedfordshire, (02302-6262) and Aitkens Sportsturf in Scotland, (041-4400033). The appointments are for both golf and bowling machines.

Turf Irons are proving highly successful at increasing green speed, bringing back surfaces following mechanical work and allowing a higher cut, thus reducing stress.

tion) and it provides a direct measurement of water availability to the plant.

Hydrovisor reacts to these changes in the soil matric potential or soil tension, not the percentage of soil moisture. Different soils require different irrigation ranges so Watermation's Hydrovisor is available in three grades to suit various types of soil, ie. sandy soils and containers, normal soil and clay soil. It is the first and only solid state, maintenance free, tensiometer and can to provide water/energy savings levels of up to 60%.

■ Barenbrug UK has produced leaflets to cover its BAR range of grass seed mixtures. The BAR range has been specifically formulated to meet the professional standards required for golf courses, parks, lawns and turf production, chosen from Barenbrug's own wide range of high performance grass varieties, many of which are recommended at, or near, the top of STRI turfgrass lists. A separate leaflet covers each of these areas, giving colourful pictures to identify the end use for the mixtures. The characteristics of each variety within the different BAR grass seed mixtures are clearly explained, showing how these will blend together to form a mixture that suits a particular amenity need. Leaflets are free. Tel: 0359 70766.

■ Jacobsen have appointed Henry H Sheach as their distributor for Scotland. Based at Kirkcaldy in Fife, the company is now responsible for the sales, service and parts support of the complete Jacobsen range of mowers, aeration equipment and turf utility vehicles. Henry Sheach has over 40 years experience of the professional turf market and, apart from the new Jacobsen franchise, already holds dealerships for Agria, Bomford Turner and Scag.

■ Dennis Groundcare have taken on eight new dealers, with coverage extending to Scotland for the first time. They are: Cowies Eastern Tractors Ltd. – Essex, Suffolk, NE London. Mitchells Industries Ltd – Midlands, SW Yorkshire. Leppard Engineering – N Kent, SE London. Turf Equip. – E & W Sussex. Major Owen Ltd – N Wales, Wirral. H Mackintosh Ltd – Tayside. Geo Henderson Ltd – Central Scotland, Edinburgh. Lloyd Ltd – Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway.

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