

## TRADE TOPICS

■ ProBase is an ecologically friendly silica based lime-free granular material, available in a range of grades which vary dependant on application. The subject of a series of trials, predominantly at Horticultural Research International Efford, but also at other research establishments, ProBase has been tested to establish its potential for use as a Peat amendment and/or substitute and also as a substitute for horticultural sand and grits. Successful ProBase trials undertaken cover a range of applications, including sub-strata for bowling greens and putting surfaces. Details, tel: 0427 811738.

■ Hemming and Wood had added a convenient, split-transmission brushcutter to its selection of high performance European equipment.

The 260D model, driven by Efco's proven 26cc engine, offers a reduction in length from 183cm to 98cm, making it exceptionally easy to transport. For further convenience, a simple coupling system, which operates without tools, allows the machine to be assembled and disassembled in seconds, while an inbuilt safety device ensures that transmission cannot be split until a locking ring has been fully disengaged. The brushcutter with single loop handle costs £280 (ex VAT). Details: Tel: 0543 256711

■ At a time when a number of important atrazine based total herbicides are to be withdrawn from the market, the news that an alternative is already available will be welcomed by those responsible for vegetation management.

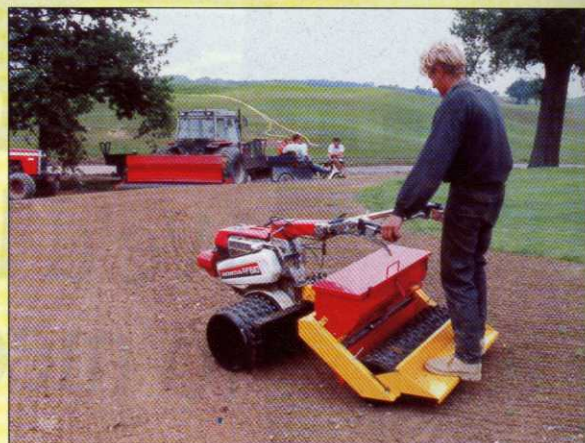
Following extensive development and commercial evaluation, ICI have introduced 'Muster'-LA, a new glyphosate based total herbicide which provides a considerable improvement over existing glyphosate products.

New, because 'Muster'-LA has not previously been avail-

able for use in the amenity and industrial weed control market. Unique, because 'Muster'-LA incorporates an increased level of tallow amine surfactant which helps improve the spread of spray droplets on the leaf surface and accelerates the glyphosate's penetration into the plant tissue. Surfactants also overcome the waxy cuticle barrier present on certain weed species. As a result the spectrum of weed control is widened and the speed of kill improved. In addition, better leaf coverage and product absorption into the tissue results in less risk of rain wash-off.

Sprayed onto growing weeds, 'Muster'-LA is absorbed through the leaf surface and translocated throughout the entire plant, including underground roots, rhizomes and stolons, even when these are below hard surfaces. It is this activity which makes 'Muster'-LA such an effective and economical herbicide in the control of emerged perennial grasses, broad-leaved and annual weeds.

'Muster'-LA is available in 1 and 5 litre containers from ICI Professional Products network of distributors.



■ BLEC Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd have introduced a new multi-pack seeder for use with a power tiller, (pictured) together with new models in their Stoneburier range of machines. Details: Tel 0788 342829.



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■ The Aardvark, seen recently on trials at Eaton and Royal Cromer, is the culmination of three years of research and development by Anglia Soil Restructuring Ltd. The third prototype has brought the machine to its present highly developed state, built upon its own chassis with twin axles and running on softac tyres, the widest tyres available for their diameter. The weight of the Aardvark has always been an important design feature and ground pressure is claimed to be less than the human footprint.

The injection probe, rear mounted to avoid running over treated ground, inserts a 20mm diameter probe into the ground and releases compressed air at varying depths from 250mm down to 1 metre, depending on the levels at which the machine is required to operate.

It may be necessary to make multiple releases of compressed air at several depths if there is more than one compaction layer, for irrigation sedimentation, compaction, anaerobic peat layers, iron pans and poor drainage may occur as multiple situations that require aeration at different depths. Washed and graded Silica sand 2-3.5mm in diameter is recommended for long term aeration and drainage. The average sized green can be dealt with in minutes rather than hours and is ready for play without further treatment. Details: Tel: 0603 404367.

■ A major new development in barrelled oils storage has been launched by Dee Bank Engineering Ltd. The bunded store complements the popular Saferite range of flammable and hazardous substance storage vaults.

Expensive absorbents and operational cleaning costs are avoided while the potential for accidents in the oil store is greatly reduced: In the event of a container being damaged over the bund, the contents will not be wasted and no environmental repercussions will follow. Where a fire risk is imminent, a forklift can be used to move the whole store to a point of safety in seconds. Pollution Inspectorate, Fire Services, Water Authorities, NRA and Environmental Audits can be satisfied and the working environment improved with this easy to install, cost effective system. The generous sized work-station allows the operator to dispense oils into smaller containers whilst over the bunded area.

Drips and leaks from pump hoses are contained and can be safely drained via the protected gate valve. The sturdy, maintenance free, mobile work-station is hot dip galvanised and available in 2, 3 or 4 barrel sizes. Tel: 0352 714930.

■ John Deere has appointed two further companies to its expanding groundscape equipment dealer network. They are Balmers Garden Machinery of Burnley (tel: 0282 53900), and A J Scambler of Hemingford Abbots, near Cambridge (tel: 0480 495909).



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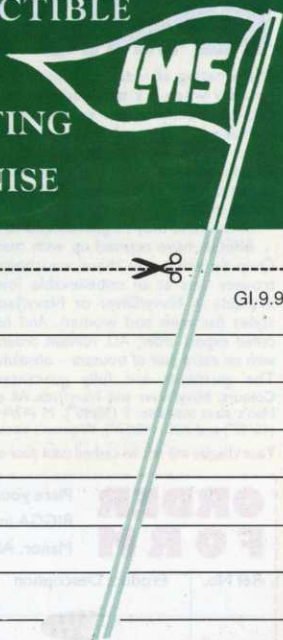
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