

BOOK REVIEWS

Four of our top young greenkeepers look at four new books to come to the UK from the USA. These books are now available from BIGGA headquarters.

HANDBOOK OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR TURF AND ORNAMENTALS

Edited by Anne Leslie

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £61.50

Price to BIGGA members: £46.00

This book sets out to address the problems faced by turf managers in the current "environmentally friendly" trends of today. It goes into great detail about the need for better cultural controls for turf pests and diseases found on golf courses.

Since the banning of effective and cheap(!) pesticides such as Chlordane, I for one have had a greater problem in controlling casting worms, for example.

Greenkeepers over recent years (since perhaps the advent of

colour TVs) have had ever increasing pressure to present their course to even higher standards for an ever longer "playing season". This has led head greenkeepers being pressurised into using quick fixes to sustain their turf and perhaps using chemicals to achieve this end. Now with environmentalists looking for ways to reduce the amount of chemicals used, there is a distinct need to use an "integrated pest management" technique to curb the use of synthetic fertilisers, chemicals and water, and to use Nature's own remedies.

This 660-page book, although based on the USA's environment and its pests and diseases, does however cover pests and diseases found on this side of the pond. It is therefore essential reading for all turf managers and students coming into this profession.

The information in this book is realistic enough to recognise that the use of chemicals cannot be ruled out entirely, but with careful planning and husbandry we can

greatly reduce their usage.

The book also covers the life cycle of many of the pests and diseases found in turf and trees and therefore gives a better insight into how we can control these problems.

Mark Webb, head greenkeeper at Alresford GC, Hampshire

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION HANDBOOK

Written by Donald Harker,

Sherri Evans, Mare Evans and

Kay Harker

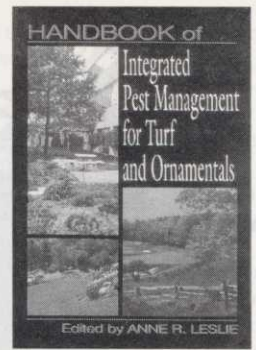
Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £65

Price to BIGGA members: £48.50

This is an in-depth and informative reference book to meet the needs of not only those working on existing landscapes but also those who are embarking on a new project.

The book is well set out into specific chapters, including design methods, restoration/ maintenance of existing naturalised areas, the creation of new areas and an extremely detailed plant list,



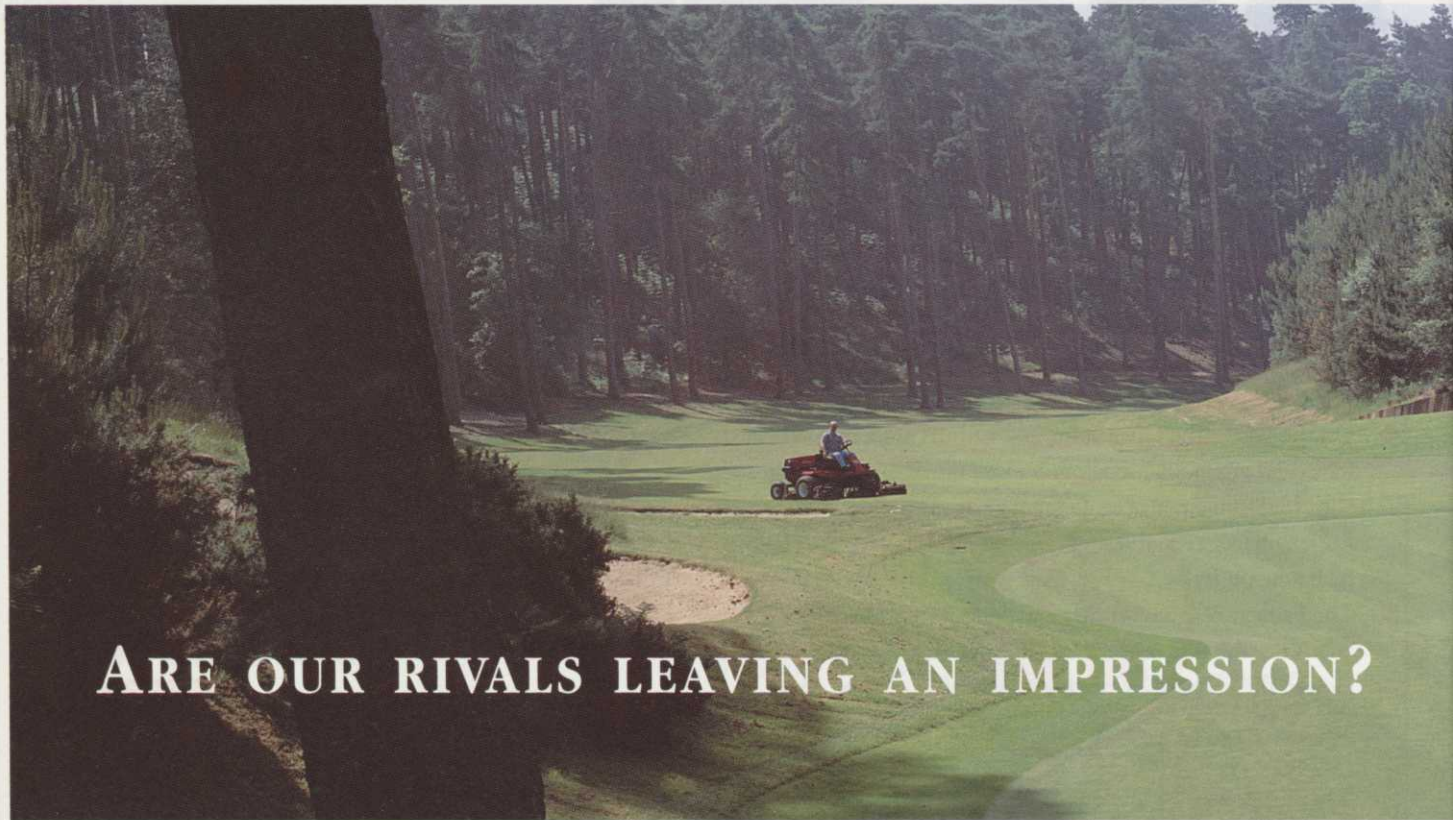
which is set out in table form somewhat similar to the STRI seed booklet.

The reader is able to select a chapter within the book that is applicable to their own specific situation or use the complete book with reference to a complete project.

The book also encourages the co-operation of adjoining land owners along with the relative authorities to work together in preparing an overall improvement plan for a given region, rather than just a small plot of land within that region.

Although this would take a great deal of time and effort from all concerned, the information within the handbook covers the formulation of a plan to the completed project.

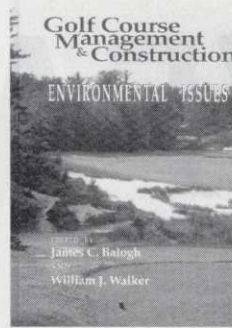
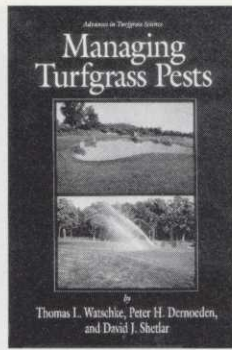
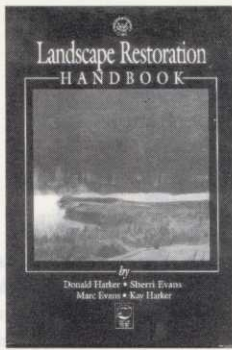
The book has been written for the USA but the principles within



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the book are relevant to the UK and with thorough reading all the natural regions of the UK can be found.

In conclusion, I think that the Landscape Restoration Handbook could be a valuable source of reference not only to greenkeepers and their committees but to anybody with an interest in enhancing the environment around them.

Paul Pearse, course manager at Stockport GC, Cheshire

MANAGING TURFGRASS PESTS

Written by Thomas LW Satschke, Peter H Dernoeden, David J Shetlar

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £57.50

Price to BIGGA members: £42.50

When I read the book, I thought that whilst the first section was very interesting it was of limited

value to a greenkeeper managing a course in this country. This was due mainly to the majority of grass and weed species not being common to the UK.

I found the section on Turfgrass Diseases (Section 2) to be of much more interest, especially the cultural practices and the environmental and biological control methods. This is important to me especially as I manage a site of Special Scientific Interest where my dependence upon pesticides and herbicides is strictly limited. As a result of all the recent concern about the environment and "what we are doing to it", it seems that more and more course managers/greenkeepers will need to revert back to cultural practices as opposed to opening a bottle.

When I got to Section 3 which deals with Insects and Mites, I began to realise just how lucky we

are in the UK as we only have to worry about a small proportion of pests that other countries are smitten with. However, this section does cover life cycles and habits that can assist us in our control efforts.

Overall I felt that the book was a very good reference but the price of £57.50 (£42.50 for BIGGA members) would, I feel, be better spent on literature that concentrates on situations more relevant to greenkeeping in the UK. This book is superb for anyone wishing to move to the USA or attain a greater understanding of what our counterparts across the ocean have to contend with.

Stefan Antolik, head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach Golf Club, East Sussex

GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Edited by James C Balogh and William J Walker

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £57.00

Price to BIGGA members: £42.50

This 950-page book has been edited by two American researchers, James C Balogh, a senior research soil scientist, and William J Walker, a senior inorganic geochemist, and includes the work of more than a dozen researchers.

Nearly half the pages comprise references and tables on topics such as aquatic and terrestrial toxicity with the information being largely irrelevant to the UK.

As a keen collector of books on turf management and greenkeeping, this is one which I would avoid. For some people in the industry it may be suitable as the ultimate reference work, but it will not find a place on the desk of a practical greenkeeper.

Richard Barker, course manager at Kirby Muxloe GC, Leicestershire



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