

Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 01347 838864

How do I tackle Pearlwort?

Although I am not a member of the Greenkeeping profession. I have been a subscriber of your excellent publication for the last three years. My interest in greenkeeping stems mainly from the fact that I have converted both my domestic lawns into putting greens.

Each of the greens are managed similarly to that of a 'real' golf green ie. mowing with a professional Certes mower, aeration, fertilising etc. and to date the swards comprise mainly of the desirable Bents and Fescues. The Ph of the soil currently stands at 5.6.

However, over the last couple of years I have witnessed an alarming increase in the weed identified as Pearlwort. Despite various applications of lawn sand and

weedkiller, the Pearlwort continues to return, often as small patches that spread vigorously to become much larger.

I have contacted a number of organisations including the Sports Turf Research Institute, but as yet, I am unable to find a logical explanation for the appearance of this tiresome weed. I would be most grateful if you could print this letter in part or in full through your letters page, in the hope that one of your knowledgeable readers may be able to offer me advice on the cultural control of Pearlwort.

Thank you for your assistance.
Cristian L. Jeffrey
 The Gables, 90 Burntwood Rd,
 Hammerwich, Burntwood,
 Staffs, WS7 0JW

Forest Pines invests in John Deere kit

Forest Pines Golf Club, a new 27-hole championship golf course, in north Lincolnshire, has invested in a range of 16 John Deere

machines worth nearly £165,000. The equipment was chosen, after tenders, by Forest Pines Course Manager David Norton and his team of 10 greenkeepers plus mechanic.

David was Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year in 1990/91, when he was at Beverley & East Riding Golf Club, and progressed via the Mid-Yorkshire Golf Club at Pontefract to The Belfry, where he was Head Greenkeeper for the 1992 English Open and 1993 Ryder Cup, before moving to Forest Pines.

He first used John Deere equipment at the Mid-Yorkshire, and has liked the machines' quality of cut and performance ever since.

Dr Wolfgang Kumpf, lawn & grounds care equipment director for Britain and Europe, flew across from Deere & Company's European Office in Germany formally to hand over the new machines to David.

Forest Pines' new range has been supplied by Ground care (Lincoln), one of John Deere's oldest grounds care dealers, and includes: a 3235 fairways mower; two 2243D diesel greens mowers; two 2653A diesel utility tees mowers; six 220 walk-behind greens cylinder mowers; one F1145 front mower with 1.8m rotary deck; two Gator 6 x 4 utility vehicles; two 1 200A bunker rakes.

Turfgrass Council to close down

At the AGM of the National Turfgrass Council delegates voted unanimously that "the NTC must cease to function at the earliest practicable opportunity". This brings to an end a period of 15 very successful years of operation.

Over that period the main activities focused on training and education to representation on various official bodies. The need for such events has largely been taken over by other more specific organisations, often members of NTC anyway, and the objects for which Council was first established do not now meet the requirements of industry.

The balance in reserve account will be directed into a special fund to perpetuate the memory of the late John Shildrick, Chief Executive of the NTC from 1980-1994.

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