

NEW PRODUCTS

■ A highly-effective alternative to brushing or switching fine turf to remove moisture prior to mowing has been developed by Ransomes.

The Air Groomer is a patented design available as an option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 walk-behind greensmower. The device comprises a full width, height-adjustable nozzle mounted on brackets ahead of the grass-box, an air delivery tube and a radial fan belt driven from the cutting cylinder layshaft. The fan produces an airflow in excess of 200 cu ft/min (5.6cu m/min) and the air delivery tube incorporates a flexible section to allow for nozzle height adjustment.

In action, the high volume curtain of air delivered by the nozzle displaces early morning dew and irrigation water droplets from the blades of grass, blowing them down into the soil to present a dry turf surface to the mower's cutting unit. The result is a clean, precise finish without the time consuming brushing or switching normally needed prior to mowing damp turf in order to give an effective cut and prevent the drooping of clumps of wet, cut grass.

By using the Air Groomer in conjunction with the Greens Super 55 mower, greenkeepers and groundstaff are able to save time and effort and avoid any risk of damage to the turf caused by physical pre-treatments on wet grass.

Both quiet in operation and simple to use and maintain, the Ransomes Air Groomer is available as a factory or dealer-fitted option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 greens mower.

■ Tonick Watering announce the addition of the new WinWater PC based irrigation controller to its fast growing range of products. It allows total control of any irrigation system from a PC and allows full flexibility for changing the program as required.

WinWater, running in Windows, is very simple to use and requires little or no computer skills to operate it. A boon to greenkeepers, changing from time-consuming, conventional, fiddly controllers to the new "on-screen" set-up is straightforward and quick; familiarisation takes only a short time and setting up an irrigation programme is carried out by simply



The new Amazone Stone Burier has a 'screen' of bars which catch stones and trash, dropping them to the ground where they are covered by the topsoil which passes through the screen

■ Amazone Ground Care, combination seeder specialists in the amenity field, has introduced an entirely new range of grass seeders for golf course and general amenity work. The machines consist of Rotary or Reciprocating Harrow or Stone Burying modules based around the Amazone seeder unit which is carried on a cage type roller: as such, the system suits all applications in amenity grass establishment.

The seeder unit itself uses a force feed seed distribution system that gives a controlled broadcasting effect, with application rates infinitely adjustable from 0 – 600kg/ha. Seed is sown across the entire width of the machine with chute delivery to the seedbed.

A new calibration system enables the operator to precisely adjust the seed rate to the required quantity of seeds per square metre. The calibration device enables seed to be collected for measurement via the outlet chute, after which they can be returned to the seed hopper.

The units are available in five working widths: 1.10, 1.30, 1.50., 2.00 and 2.5 metres with power requirements from 20 to 50hp depending on size and configuration.

With the reciprocating harrow/seeder combination the machine has a pto powered harrow element. This works ahead of the seeder to create a well cultivated, level seedbed into

"pointing and clicking" with the computer mouse. Most older controllers can be upgraded to the new Windows based system usually without the need to change existing decoders or wiring.

which seed is sown and covered by a following tined harrow.

The reciprocating harrow, as with earlier models, arranges the seedbed into layers of small clods which are crushed around the seed, a fine layer of tilled soil in which roots quickly germinate, and an under-layer of coarser material to provide drainage and space for deep root growth. The machine can be used for both direct seeding into ploughed or cultivated land and also for patching up worn areas such as goal mouths and reinstated areas of parks, etc.

The combination with a Rotary Harrow is a "one pass" combination capable of sowing seed into a wide range of soil type without primary cultivation. The pto powered rotary harrow is attached to brackets at the front of the machine with cultivation depth controlled by the cage roller. This ensures constant working depth.

The rotary harrow will work through vegetation and other debris and has the advantage that it does not bring stones to the surface. It also ensures a good levelling effect.

The third configuration for the seeder combines a stone burier with the seeder.

The price of the new Stone Burier is £5,500. Prices for the other equipment will be according to size and type of combination.

For further information: Tel: 01579 351155.

Costing considerably less than other computer based controllers, WinWater is fully compatible with current decoders from TORO, Primetime, Robydome and Wraith-train and with all Tonick Watering

replacement decoders. Full support is provided by Tonick Watering.

For further information: Tel: 01903 262393.

■ The Little John Scarifier consists of a hydrostatic drive unit with fully floating scarifier head that also takes interchangeable options including verticut, moss remover, sorrel roller and brush reels. The possibility for extending the unit's applications is considerable.

In field trials the hydraulic system gave a smooth, constant drive to the floating scarifying head, while the transmission system enabled the operator to match ground speed to prevailing conditions. The standard of finish the machine produces is of a very high quality and all debris is collected in one pass.

From an operational point of view, the 65cm width of the head provides a fast working speed thus reducing time spent on the turf to a minimum. Considerable attention has been paid to strength, low ground pressure and simplicity of use. The unique handlebar design incorporates a lifting system that enables the operator to easily manoeuvre Little John without scuffing or damaging the turf.

The unit can be used in either forward or reverse mode, so is ideal for towing dragmats and brushes. Power is provided by an 8hp Honda engine and there is a choice of smooth profile tyres for ultra-fine work, or turf savers for those occasions when extra traction may be needed.

A large polypropylene grass collector is fitted as standard Little John was developed and built here in the United Kingdom and is supported by a team of turf care specialists. It represents a highly cost effective and versatile piece of equipment that covers a broad spectrum of turf, from very coarse to the ultra-fine modern mixes.

Little John joins the RTS range of turf care equipment including, the Big Willy (pedestrian) and Hercules (tractor mounted) aerators; plus sorrel rollers; drag mats; brushes and rakes.

For further information: Tel: 01844 274127.

■ The new Soil Reliever Junior allows Greenkeepers and Groundsmen to carry out heavy duty deep tine aeration on

greens and sports turf with suitable compact tractors.

Extremely quick, the Junior can solid tine to 12" depth and hollow core to 10", leaving a clean surface finish across the 48" working width.

As with the larger 60" and 80" Soil Relievers, the Junior has two separate crankshafts, each half being driven from the centre. This reduces torque and vibration, allows the machine to turn faster and increase tine speed, so that turf disturbance is minimised. The Junior's frame design adds leverage and places more weight at the tine heads. Together with the fast crankshaft turn, this gives a bigger and faster "hammer action", resulting in deeper soil penetration.

Huxleys say that customers with suitable small tractors, capable of handling the Junior's 1100 lb weight, will find that they can achieve similar operating speed and depth of penetration to that of the larger Soil Reliever Models 60 and 80. This may avoid the

expense of purchasing a new larger tractor.

The Soil Reliever Junior costs £12,500 plus VAT, and is offered with optional hydraulic top link (for depth control from the operator's seat) and a wide variety of solid and hollow tines.

For further information: Tel: 01506 856968.

Miracle Professional (formerly ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) has launched "Invigorator", the latest addition to its "Longlife" range of amenity turf fertilisers. "Invigorator" is a true compound mini-granular feed and general turf conditioner with an analysis of 408 (+4% Fe + 2% Mg + 7.5% S + Seaweed Extract). The Iron and Magnesium help to give Rapid greening and hardening of the turf, while



the sulphur helps in controlling soil pH.

For use on all amenity turf, the application rate of 35g per sq.m provides a bag coverage of 710 sq.m.

The recommended user price is £14.95 per 25Kg bag and is available from all Miracle Professional Main distributors.

For further information: Tel: The Miracle Professional Technical Advice Centre on 0990 301010.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has introduced two new reels for use with their range of Rotorakes:

The Verticutting Reel - Reel comprising close pitched, straight, triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season. Regular use removes thatch as it accumulates.

The Combined Reel - Thatch removal blades are pitched 20mm (3/4in) apart and interspersed with brushes. This reel removes thatch efficiently with

the added benefit of a brushed finish and improved collection of debris. Used prior to mowing, it raises the grasses for a better cut.

A brand new spraying concept from Weed Free (Bracknell) promises to revolutionise customer service.

Flexible operating hours and the ability to perform in adverse weather conditions will enable spraying jobs to be tackled at off-peak playing times.

JUST A THOUGHT

Worry makes for a hard pillow. When something's troubling you, before going to sleep, jot down three things you can do the next day to help solve the problem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Taken from Life's Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr published by Harper Collins

SubAir. The perfect answer for a perfect green.

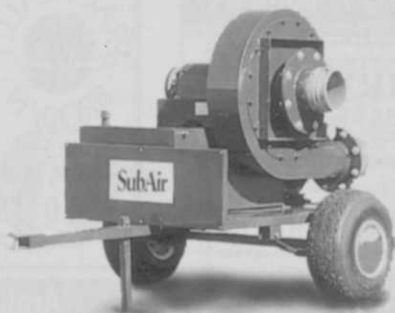
SubAir is a revolutionary approach to aeration and drainage stimulation for modern greens.

Optimum root zone conditions are created all year round by SubAir's unique ability to make a green breathe and to control root zone moisture conditions.

- Strong, deep root growth, not thatch build up
- Black Layer becomes a thing of the past
- Temperature moderation to defrost and prevent summer scorching
- Stimulation of natural microbiological nutrient production

The bottom line is healthier greens that spend more time being played on and less time in maintenance. Simple but effective.

If raising the quality of your greens while keeping the members playing is high on your score card, call Mick Tinning today on 01902 452138 and find out how SubAir can reduce your courses handicap.



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