

NEW PRODUCTS



■ A completely new fuel storage system has been launched into the UK and European market place. This patented system is known as "Convault" – an above ground storage tank (AST) which can store petroleum based products and other hazardous substances in an inherently safe and environmentally sound format. An above ground fuel tank is pictured above.

Although new to markets on this side of the Atlantic, Convault has been in service in the U.S.A. and Canada for approximately 10 years with over 17,000 tanks sold to date.

Convault has been developed to meet the highest environmental and fire safety concerns. Within the UK, Breton Precast Ltd. recognised the importance and potential contribution of the regulatory authorities. From this a Risk Assessment Document was compiled which addressed the key safety and operational issues. This document received a positive response from the regulatory bodies involved.

The environmental benefits of using an above ground system includes full visual inspection of the tank at all times which means, should a leak occur, it is detected at the earliest opportunity, removing the possibility for soil and ground water contamination which is associated with conventional underground storage tanks and below ground suction lines.

Convault's complete above ground vaulted tank and fuelling system is constructed using a steel tank which is insulated and wrapped in a poly membrane liner, all of which is then encased in a 150 mm reinforced concrete

shell. The complete unit provides full primary and secondary containment, a certified 2 hour fire wall, can withstand vehicle incursions and it is also bullet resistant!

Convault meets applicable safety requirements for secondary containment, leak monitoring, spill and over spill protection, and is also certified for phase 1 & 2 vapour recovery.

The initial size of the tanks available range from 4,500 litres (1,000 gal) to 18,000 litres (4,000 gal).

For further information telephone 01232 351711.



■ Huxleys' new Groundforce 104 is a rugged, easily maintained four wheel transport vehicle, designed for off-road use on golf courses, playing fields, caravan parks, schools and university grounds, and a wide range of amenity areas.

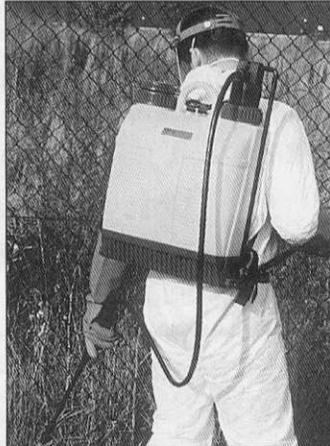
The Groundforce has an automatic clutch and is simple to drive. All you do is select forward or reverse, release the handbrake, depress the throttle and you're moving. The powerful 16 hp Kohler overhead camshaft engine is smooth and exceptionally quiet (74 dbA at full operating speed), with easy access for routine service checks.

For strength and durability, the Groundforce is designed with sturdy upper and lower tubular

steel frame construction, with automotive type transaxle for long service life. Automotive hydraulic rear disc brakes provide sure stopping power, even when carrying the full 1500 lbs (680 kg) total payload capacity. There's also an optional hydraulic lift, to make light work of tumping heavy loads from the 16 cu ft (0.45 cu metre) tilt box.

Prices from £5,595 plus VAT.

For a free demonstration or further details telephone 01962 733222.



■ Spaldings latest addition into their 12,000 strong product range is a professional quality 18 litre knapsack sprayer.

The sprayer, say Spaldings, is designed for long periods of use in arduous conditions. It combines an ergonomical tank design with balanced weight distribution for accurate and efficient application of today's pesticides.

It features a heavy duty 1000cc piston pump for a long trouble free life and an easy move handle allowing for left to right handed operation and is designed to suit all users.

The telescopic lance, say Spaldings, is supplied as standard with an adjustable nozzle to suite all application flow rates.

The machine costs £59.98.

For further information telephone 01522 500600.

■ Rolawn, Europe's largest turf grower has introduced the 'Turf Inspector'.

The character will be used to convey the company's message about the independent testing of

its turf by the Sports Turf Research Institute.

"We want to make some serious points about turf quality and we feel that the turf inspector helps us to do this," stated Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales & Marketing Director.

Turf Testing Doctor Andy Newell of the Sports Turf Research Institute visited the Rolawn Turf Company's fields recently to conduct tests on the botanical composition of Rolawn's well known Medallion turf.

The tests which took place late last year on two fields amounting to 88 acres, revealed an annual meadow grass content of half of one percent and identified exactly the cultivated grass species present in the finished turf.

The tests were carried out to the STRI's own operating procedures and not to a procedure set out by the Company.

Rolawn began its policy of inviting independent testing by the STRI in 1995. The first tests were conducted to identify the botanical composition of their Advantage greens turf.

The company is happy to provide free copies of the STRI reports upon application.

■ Concern over the increasing number of thefts of ground's maintenance equipment has prompted Buckinghamshire-based Risboro' Turf to become the first manufacturer to fit Datatags as standard on all pedestrian self-propelled machines produced by them including, the new Little John scarifier and Big Willy aerator. Commenting on this security initiative, Director, Richard Taylor said, "During the year, the British Agricultural and Garden Machinery Association set up a scheme to fight garden machinery theft. Through this we learnt about Datatag, and realised it would be an invaluable addition to our products. We are fitting them during production at no extra cost to our customers."

Datatag is an electronic identification device that utilises micro-transponder technology. Each tag has its own 10 character alpha-numeric code which can

be "read" by a scanner via radio frequency. This code is fed into Datatag's mainframe computer and registered together with make, type and model of the machine. The frame and engine identification numbers are also recorded. Once the machine is sold, details of the owner are added. In the event of it being stolen, incident details including crime reference, police station and officer handling the case will be fed into the computer. The tags are small and have been designed to withstand vibration, electrical and magnetic interference as well as an acid attack. They are unobtrusively secured to the machine with two-part epoxy adhesive. Visible Datatag decals warn would-be thieves of their presence. Datatag is already the standard method of identification and registration in industries such as motorcycles and watercraft. As a result, the system is universally accepted by Police and Customs who receive, free of charge the equipment to read the tags as well as access to the Datatag computer.

Risboro' Turf would like other garden machinery manufacturers to join their bid to beat crime. "The whole issue of theft is a great problem, and we hope that the rest of the industry will follow our lead. We appreciate the problems that particularly smaller sports clubs and organisations have in funding machinery budgets, and want to do everything we can to ensure their investment is protected. Datatag has a proven track record as a reliable method of identification and retrieval. It is time for the industry to move into the 21st century with a more responsible attitude towards crime prevention," said Richard Taylor.

■ Many years ago activated charcoal was widely used by greenkeepers and groundsman to neutralise chemicals or effectively clean through tanks or spraying units. It was effective, but as it was very difficult to use and dirty to handle, it fell out of favour.

Now technology has come to the rescue and produced Clean Carbon offering all the time

proven benefits of activated charcoal but in a water dispersible pelleted form which is clean, easy to handle and highly effective.

Clean Carbon has some very interesting applications in addition to its deactivation of organic chemicals in emergency or annual preventative maintenance, such as use as a warming agent. An application of Clean Carbon can warm up the soil surface via the sun's rays by three degrees above ambient temperature for times when those few extra degrees are critical. Clean Carbon also deactivates organic based pre-emergence herbicides when overseeding is undertaken.

Activated charcoal is capable of binding many materials such as organic pesticides, petroleum products and hydraulic oils; as such, it is a very handy product to have around in case of those all too frequent disaster situations.

For further information telephone 01455 234677.

■ Rufford Top-Dress Supplies has just launched a series of educational leaflets.

The first issue features top dressing and further topics will include rootzones, sands, soils and turf reinforcement. You can obtain a free copy from Rufford Top-Dress Supplies Limited Fairway House, South Stage, Broadway Salford Quays, Manchester M5 2UQ. Telephone 0161-877 8552.

■ Replacing the MULE 500, is the new Kawasaki KAF 300 C Mule 550. The most obvious change is a standardisation - the 550's big brother 2500 and 2510 4X4 both have seating for driver and passenger - to a "two seat" configuration rather than the single front seat of the Mule 500.

The original range of Kawasaki Mules was launched more than five years ago as an extension of the companies All Terrain Vehicle expertise. All are designed on the "low ground pressure" principle offering operators with a minimal ground damage requirement machines with high payloads and simple and thrifty operation.

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While the visual changes are obvious Kawasaki has carried out detailed work to further enhance the small Mule's performance and ease of operation.

Price: £4050.



■ BTME 97 was Wiedenmann UK's most successful show with enquiries and sales up considerably on previous years.

Pictured with the most popular product on the stand, the Terra-Spike P160 are from left: Director, David Rae; David Bate, Regional Sales Manager, Eng-

land and Wales and Michael James from the Scottish sales team.

Director David Rae said "The Terra-Spike Speed Link which we believe to be the most versatile deep-spiker in the UK marketplace was making its first appearance at Harrogate. We recently introduced the new speed linkage which enables the machine to be operated at much higher speeds, resulting in an increase of over 80% in productivity and this naturally created a great deal of interest at the show including a number of sales.

"This is our seventh visit to Harrogate and we have always found it to be a very worthwhile event for us. Going by this years results, there is no doubt we will be back."

■ There are now strict European Standards for personal

protective equipment for users of hand-held chainsaws to minimise risks.

Stihl of Germany, has developed and produced a new design for boots for users of chainsaws which have been tested and approved.

The boots are to EN345 which indicates that they have passed stringent cutting tests at a chain speed of 20 metres per second achieving Class 1 status.

They are made of brown leather in sizes 4 to 14, cost £99 per pair, and are zero rated for VAT.

The boots are just one of many items of Stihl personal protective equipment and the full 1997 range of Stihl power tools available in the latest Stihl catalogue.

Freephone 0800 137574 or send a postcard to Department S24 Stihl, FREEPOST, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3BR.

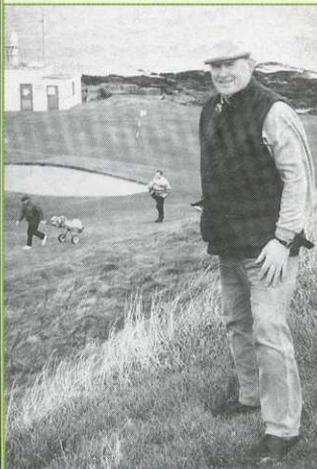
■ Improved traction, engine cooling and ease of maintenance are three important features of the new Front Line 933 ride-on rotary mower being launched by Ransomes for the '97 mowing season.

Based on the T-33D, which it replaces, the Front Line 933 is a rugged and powerful rotary mower designed to appeal to golf courses needing a 4-wheel drive machine with a choice of 60in. (1.52m) rear discharge, 63in (1.6m) side discharge or 72in (1.8m) side or rear discharge decks.

In common with its larger stablemate the winged 1951, the new Front Line 933 uses Ransomes' patented cross-flow four wheel drive and differential system which ensures excellent traction on slopes with minimal turf damage when turning. Other improvements to the hydraulic system have produced an increase in transport speed to 15mph when two-wheel drive is selected. Also included on the new Ransomes Front Line 933 are audible alarms for high engine temperature and low engine oil pressure, alerting the operator of any problems.

Price is £19,220 fitted with a 72in rear discharge rotary cutting deck.

fortiva
APPLIED SEED TECHNOLOGY



A Salt on Larne's 7th Hole

The Bell Hole at Larne may only be 105 yards long, but its sheer physical position, bounded by the Irish Sea and with a carry across rocks from a high tee, make it intimidating.

But for head greenkeeper, Davie Craig it's not keeping the ball on the green that's the problem, it's maintaining its sward. Sea-spray can completely burn-off the bents and fescues he tries to establish.

Last spring he'd almost given up hope of ever having a resilient grass cover. Now, twelve months on, he claims that the Fortiva treated seed which he bought through JA Humphrey Agriculture has transformed the green into the best it's been in 20 years.

"I was resigned to the STRI's view that it would be better to move the green," he says. "However, we've now got a good sward with no sign of damping-off or fusarium.

"Having used seaweed extract prior to overseeding, I'm very impressed with the result," says Davie.

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