



■ Ransomes announced at BTME that it is to launch its own range of compact tractors onto the European markets during 1997. This initiative results from an agreement reached with a major producer of compact tractors.

To be manufactured in Ransomes corporate colours and styling, the tractor range will be marketed and supported fully by the company through its existing commercial distributor and dealer network throughout the British Isles and mainland Europe. Encompassing a power band from 18 to 45hp (13.4 –

UNVEILED

New products seen for the first time

33.5kW), the new Ransomes compact tractors will complement the company's current line-up of professional grass-cutting and turf maintenance machinery, adding strength and value to the Ransomes product range.

"This move has been planned for some time and reinforces our position as the world's most complete supplier of grass and turf-care equipment," commented Ransomes' Sales and Marketing director, Andrew Sunaway.

It is planned that the first Ransomes compact tractors will be available in Britain during the Spring in time for the coming season. Full information on the new range, together with model

specifications and prices, will be released as soon as details are finalised.



■ John Deere showed a new walk-behind version, of the Aercore 1000 and 1500 tractor mounted aerators – the Aercore 800 – at BTME '97

"This is its first public showing in Europe, and we have chosen

the BIGGA event to get initial reactions to the product from greenkeepers and other turf professionals," said Graham Williams, John Deere's Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division Manager.

"The Aercore 800 is going into full production in February, and is due to be available here in March or April." Like its stablemates, the self-propelled Aercore 800 is designed for aerating golf greens and fairways, and other fine turf areas. It features an 18hp Kohler petrol engine with four selectable forward gears, a working width of 81cm (32in) and adjustable depth control down to 100mm (4in).

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There is an 'operator presence system' with electric raise and lower controls, and top speed for transport is 3.5mph. Overall weight is around 392kg (865lb).

There are three sizes of tine holder available to provide the widest possible choice of hole spacings. The special Flexi-Link tine design produces clean, tidy holes with minimal scuffing at the hole top, using a variety of solid, open-sided or hollow tines.



the new Super B compact tractors it is designed to help greenkeepers and amenity managers solve the problem of debris clearance.

Its 200km/hr air blast is designed to clear loose and lightweight debris from golf courses, sports ground, roadways and parkland or if preferred the operator can blow debris into rows for collection and disposal later.

Three point linkage makes attachment to selected Kubota compact tractors easy and height adjustments can be made according to grass length. The BL770 also features an anti-scalp roller to prevent tUI, scuffing especially on uneven surfaces.

An optional 180 degree diverter chute is also available to enable the operator to change the air delivery from left to right. There is also a hand-held wander hose option.

Price ex VAT: £2550

■ If BIGGA's 10th anniversary is not enough to celebrate, there are four other good reasons why being a member of BIGGA is such good value.



First it was the introduction of the BIGGA Year Planner sponsored by Toro. This welcome addition to every head greenkeepers office provides an 'at-a-glance' view of the complete year and a means of recording a wide range of dates and important reminders.

The Miracle sponsored Desk Planner also provides a versatile office aid which enables greenkeepers to make record those important telephone calls, detail weekly appointments, convert weights and measures, plan the weeks work and of course scribble

down any thoughts that may come into the head.

Complementing the Desk Planner is the Hardi sponsored golf course management Date Planner which provides Head Greenkeepers with their own Diary. The Date Planner includes a useful reference section on BIGGA's ten years of growth, provides a month to view calendar to record day to action plans and activities and details important events in the golfing calendar. Featuring a 'wipe-clean' cover, the Date Planner is both attractive to look at yet serviceable as a day to day work tool.

Last but not least is BIGGA's first calendar, introduced to celebrate the Associations tenth anniversary. Supported by twelve leading names in the golf course supply industry, the BIGGA calendar is both useful and attractive, either in the work place or in the home.

■ The Toro Company announced a two-year warranty on its entire commercial equipment product line effective from the beginning of this year.

The worldwide warranty covers Reelmaster, Greenmaster and

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SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Groundsmaster mowers, Multi Pro utility vehicles, aerators, top-dressers, sprayers, sweepers and all other commercial products. Toro's product line has applications in the golf, government/municipal, landscape, outdoor, recreation, sports field and other turf management markets.

"This warranty decision shows our customers around the globe that Toro is committed to manufacturing quality, design expertise and meeting service expectations," said Dan Stiller, International Product Manager. "Turf maintenance professionals can depend on Toro to be there to support them - no matter where they are located on the map."

Toro has achieved ISO 9001 certification for its Commercial Business and Riverside facilities, and ISO 9002 certification for the Tomah Commercial and Shakopee parts production facilities.



Levington Horticulture launched two new fine turf fertilizers at BTME,

both of them featuring a high potash to nitrogen ratio. These new products are additions to the comprehensive Levington Greenmaster range of fine turf fertilisers, bringing the number of Greenmaster formulations to ten.

Greenmaster NK (12:0:12 plus 2% iron and 3.3% magnesium) and Greensmaster Double K (7:0:14 plus 4% iron) have been introduced to the range to meet the increasing demand for such fertilisers from greenkeepers caring for sand green systems. Importantly, both products have been formulated with a zero phosphate content in order to eliminate risk of encouraging *Poa annua* establishment.

Levington also introduced new Sportsmaster Fairway at BTME. Sportsmaster Fairway is a spring and summer feed with a balanced



formulation (12:6:9 plus 3% MgO) for a fast sustained green up without excessive growth.

Two new Charterhouse Verti-Drain machines (pictured above) had their European debut at BTME.

These two new models replace the existing Popular Verti-Drain and the best-selling Greens Verti-Drain.

The two new models are both faster over the ground than the previous machines and can be operated without creep gearboxes being fitted to the prime mover. The re-design of these machines has been specifically focused on providing the Greenkeeper and Groundsman with an excellent finish to their turf after the shatter tining process.



Allen's new Lawncycler hover mower is a unique addition to the grass cutting machinery market - and will be available to the professional user in March 1997.

This mulching mower has a patented, Grass Recycling System, an 18" cut and is powered by an easy start 4 stroke 4hp Briggs & Stratton engine, designed for quieter operation and minimum pollution.

Lawncycler's GRS (Grass Recycling System) obviates the need for grass collection and is ideal for keeping grass healthy and fresh looking. This feature is of special use to greenkeepers and groundsman when very dry weather conditions, such as those experienced in this country over the last few years, persist for many months.

Ideal for bunker and tee surrounds, grass can be cut with minimum effort, but maximum manoeuvrability, using Lawncycler (rsp £449.95 inc VAT).

This year's BTME saw the launch of the latest, state-of-the-art (of grass) varieties and mixtures from Barenbrug.

Comprehensive details of the range can be found in the 1997 Amenity Grass Seed Mixtures handbook, now available from Barenbrug. But BTME showcased one mixture and two varieties specifically.

BAR EXTREME has been developed for extreme wear tolerance, for applications such as golf tees, tennis courts, cricket wickets and fairways. This special blend of perennial ryegrass gives a compact, fine-leaved, clean-cutting appearance, which is able to withstand close mowing and has been formulated to give rapid establishment from overseeding.

BARCAMPSIA is a unique new species of tufted hairgrass, which Barenbrug has developed especially for shaded situations. It therefore addresses the problem that can arise from your back lawns to tree-lined parks. Not to mention the increasingly talked about situation of shade in sporting arenas. BARCAMPSIA has been extensively tested and trialed at the STRI, Bingley, and at Barenbrug's own research station in Holland with excellent results. Highly wear tolerant, this variety has a light green colour and a broad leaf similar to smooth-stalked meadow grass.

Huxley launched its brand new Greenstar ride-on greensmower at BTME.

Paul Huxley unveiled the Greenstar and explained that Huxley's was the only all-British ride-on currently being produced in this country.

Boasting steering and quickly detachable cutting units, exceptional traction and stability, permanent all wheel drive, power steering and a Perkins 20.3hp diesel engine the Greenstar will sell for £17,500 without groomers and £19,999 with the groomers.

Appropriately the first purchaser was Alresford GC. Huxley's home base club and Head Greenkeeper Mark Webb, who assisted with some of the research and development was at BTME to look over his new machine.

Pattinson's launched its own brand of line marking paint at BTME.

Premier Line has been specially formulated for use on golf courses and sports grounds and is not harmful to the atmosphere, the user or fragile root systems.

It has won an Environmental Award for Innovation in Aerosols as neither the product nor the propellant gases contain lead, chlorinated solvents, or chloro-fluorocarbons.

Premier Line is available in six colours - white, yellow, blue, green, orange and red and also available are the handheld, two wheel and four wheel applicators.

Due to lack of space more of the new products launched at BTME will be published next month.