

Spray away - the safer way

In response to the new enforcement of the Ground Water directive G & AE Wilson who supply and manufacture sprayers and related products for the amenity sector have developed a kit for fitting to sprayers to enable greenkeepers/groundsmen and sprayer operators keep within the law.

The Groundwater directive removes the right for the sprayer to be cleaned out in the yard - unless the yard has been registered as a washings disposal site, which will involve paperwork and a registration cost and also a yearly cost. The directive has been developed to reduce the contamination of groundwater and will be enforced by the Environment Agency.

The cleaning kit, which is an alternative to land registration, enables the sprayer to be cleaned inside with an internal rinsing nozzle, and also externally around the nozzle bodies where chemical residue may also be. This means the sprayer can be washed down in an area where the sprayer has been working - which is acceptable with the Environment Agency, and means you don't have to register your land or yard. The kit also gives visual reassurance that you are looking after the environment and are taking steps to eliminate groundwater contamination.

The wash down kit comes complete with a 30ltr clean water container, two 3 way valves, internal cleaning nozzle, external washdown pistol, and all the fittings for fitment, at a price including fitting for £890.00 + VAT.

For further details, Tel: (01904) 738533 or 0966 520057.

If you want to get ahead, then get a mat

The Isoplant Tree Mulching Mat has been launched into the amenity market by PG Horticulture Ltd.

The mats, which suppress weeds, retain moisture and give an ideal environment for three to four years, are made from wood fibre and are totally degradable.

Available in different shapes, dimensions and thicknesses, the mats are fixed in place using bamboo pegs and once wet they become bonded to the ground taking the shape of the soil surface.

For further information Tel: 01379 678515.

Fairway to spot weeds from Vitax

Weedfree aerosols from Vitax have crossed over from the retail to the amenity market, thanks to the ingenuity of greenkeepers. Commonly used on greens and tees, the product, which has always been considered too labour intensive for use on fairways, has now been combined with divotting.

Ian McMillan, who as Course Manager at Hankley Common prepared the club for its win in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc and who was the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping winner the same year has six members of staff who divot the fairways once a month from April to September.

"We always, as far as is reasonably possible, hand weed our greens. However, this would be far too laborious on tees and fairways. Basically the weed population generally does not justify an overall spray which would cost money. By using Weedfree aerosols as we divot, we know what we're hitting, and essentially, we are not using herbicides unnecessarily."

Ray Malt, Head Greenkeeper at The Ridge Golf Club, has taken the idea one step further. With four



greenstaff, spot weeding the fairways is out of the question, which led him to employ the members.

"We have two divotting evenings a year and it usually takes 15 members two and a half hours to do all the fairways. Because the Weedfree aerosol is available on the retail market I knew it was safe to give them a can each, and during our first session last

month (May) they seemed to cover the ground in the same time. We obviously won't have been 100% effective, but if we have got 50% or 60% of the weeds that marks a huge improvement. Afterwards, we all had a beer and a sandwich," Ray commented.

For further information: Tel: 01530 510060.

New cylinder mowers from Kubota

Kubota has announced the launch of its very first range of ride-on cylinder mowers.

Known as the AM Series, the all-new triple cylinder machines are the result of worldwide customer research and evaluation carried out by Kubota over the past decade. The initial two machines in the new AM Series now being introduced in the United Kingdom and Ireland are manufactured totally by Kubota and represent the first in a new generation of technically-advanced ride-on cylinder mowers designed from the ground up to meet the demands of professionals into the 21st century.

Both models have a number of exciting design elements which will make them serious contenders within their respective market areas. They also share the safety features, build quality, user-friendly design, reliability, performance and value for money that have been the hallmark of Kubota's products since 1922, when the first Kubota engine was produced.

Introduced commercially in Japan in 1998, the AM3300 is a rugged ride-on triple cylinder mower with an

optional rear hopper grass collection and emptying facility.

This system makes the Kubota AM3300 the only ride-on cylinder mower in Europe able to collect and dispose of cut grass without the operator having to leave the driving seat.

Powered by a low noise, low emission 33hp four cylinder Kubota diesel engine, the AM3300 has single pedal hydrostatic transmission, automatic, self-selecting four-wheel drive and a flat floor operating platform laid out and equipped to provide exceptional comfort, convenience and ease of use.

All mowing functions are actuated by a combination of push buttons and single-lever joy stick control. Customers can choose from five or seven bladed 200mm (8in) diameter cylinders giving an overall mowing width of 2.03m (80in).

Other features of the self-steering, fully-floating cutting units include individual lowering, in-situ backlapping, hydraulic weight transfer and a choice of full width grooved or side-offset front rollers, the latter being ideal when cutting longer grass.

AM3300 operators wanting the convenience of grass collection with single lever hydraulic emptying from the driving seat can specify a 420 litre capacity high-dump rear hopper, force-filled via flexible pipes and grass collection manifolds connected directly to the three cutting units.

This collection and emptying system provides fast, fatigue-free mowing, collection and emptying for areas where a high workrate and visual appearance are equally important. It also reduces long-term scarifying requirements and the risk of yellowing, disease and moss build-up beneath uncollected clippings.

The second machine in Kubota's new AM Series is the AM1800 - a compact ride-on triple cylinder mower ideal for regular maintenance of open and more confined areas of grass.

The AM3300 ride-on cylinder mower is available for demonstrations and sale from 1 July, to be followed by the AM1800 in August. Both the AM3300 and AM1800 machines will be exhibited on the Kubota stand at Saltex 99.