

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL TAKES A LOOK AT THE VERY LATEST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES LAUNCHED AT THIS YEAR'S PREMIER TURFCARE EXHIBITION IN HARROGATE

# Quality finish from new Deere

John Deere's new B Series family of durable greens mowers have been developed through the successful customer feedback initiative, which helps frame Deere's product development and improvement programmes.

The 46cm 180B, 56cm 22DB and 66cm 26DB walk-behind greens mowers are designed to provide a quality finish on golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens and other fine turf areas, giving greenkeepers and groundsman a true choice of machines for all applications.

All three mowers feature a 4hp air cooled Honda engine, cutting height up to 22mm, and an 11 blade, 127mm (Sin) diameter reel as standard (seven blade optional on the 260B), delivering a high quality cut at up to 5.2mph.

The smaller 18DB reduces the overall weight of the mower and allows the operator to follow cut lines and overlap more easily and with more accuracy. The larger 260B provides a higher capacity machine for all sports turf applications, and incorporates a dimpled drum for increased traction.



New features include lower noise levels, a redesigned height adjustable handlebar, an improved grassbox and easier bedknife-to-reel adjustment. The grassbox design improves the operator's vision of the mowing path, as well as the cut line marker, which increases productivity by reducing overlaps and misses.

Key options include detachable

transport wheels, to make it easier to move the mower from trailer to green, a Greens Tender™ conditioner and a pull-back clutch that allows the mower to be reversed while the reels are engaged.

The new John Deere 180B and 260B walk-behind greens mowers will be available from April 2002, with the 220B following in June.

## Product range Xtended

Sports-pitches, outfields and other course turf areas stand to benefit from a new range of granular fertilisers from Headland Amenity Products. Headland Xtend features a slow release form of soluble nitrogen, which is safe to apply, and lasts for up to 12 weeks. Utilising UMAXX and UFLEXX stabilised nitrogen technology, each urea prill is treated with two soluble chemical coatings which prevent loss of nitrogen to the atmosphere, while slowing down its conversion in the soil. The product is less prone to leaching and will respond even under cool conditions. Available in three formulations, 46+0+0, 25+5+10+2MgO and 15+5+20+2MgO, Headland Xtend can be applied as a granule directly after cutting to allow maximum time for the product to penetrate the turf between cuts. Pickup is minimal as Xtend is fully soluble, and breaks down rapidly in the soil. "In addition, the 46+0+0 formulation can be dissolved and applied as a liquid spray. When tank mixed with Headland's Relay Turf Herbicide, this provides a labour saving, cost effective "weed and feed" application," said Headland's Andy Russell.

## New Sisis Javelin gets straight to the point



The new SISIS Javelin 1500 has been developed following eight successful years with the SISIS Technicore. The new machine retains all the popular features of the Technicore including full 5" operating depth, but offers a wider working width, faster forward speed, quick, single lever depth setting and minimal maintenance. Nine different interchangeable tines are available including Microcore, Multiline, Needle, and Jumbo Hollow. Turf retainers are available and a wide range of hole patterns can be selected as desired.

## Best of both worlds with Express Dual 1000

The Express Dual from Bernhard and Company, now comes in a most cost-effective format. The Show saw the launch of new Express Dual 1000 - a compact, but robust spin grinder for cylinder mowers with heavy duty chassis in mild steel plate. This allows greenkeepers and groundsman with more modest budgets to create a highly profitable in-house grinding facility. Giving excellent results, ED 1000 has many key components common to the higher specification models in the Express Dual range, and is supplied with a 10 year warranty.

The machine can spin grind blades in-frame up to 36" long and is launched with three optional configurations; bench mounted with manual traverse; manual traverse supplied with a stable support frame; machine with automatic traverse and support frame; Overload protected, the mainshaft drive motor rotates at 3400rpm and is fan cooled and brushless. Mower support systems have fully adjustable front roller mounting brackets with quick adjustment in one plane - without the necessity of tools.

## Barenbrug take grass species to a higher level with Bargold

Perennial ryegrass, the most important grass species for sport and amenity applications in the UK, has been taken to an unprecedented level of performance in the shape of Bargold, the aptly named new variety bred by Barenbrug UK. This exciting cultivar is unique because it can be used as a key component in swards for fine turf, such as golf greens, as well as for heavy wear situations like soccer pitches. Recognised as having superb wear tolerance characteristics combined with rapid establishment and persistence, perennial ryegrass is invariably chosen for winter games pitches and other heavily used grassed areas. But the species typically has broad, coarse leaves, a factor previously making it unsuitable for fine turf applications. Barenbrug UK, however, has led the drive to develop a fine-leaved variety. Bargold is the latest in a series of cultivars bred by the seed specialists to offer what was once thought impossible: a perennial ryegrass with the characteristics of finer species, like fescues and bents, but without their vulnerability to wear and disease. It has a fineness of leaf similar to that of red fescues, and has outstanding tolerance of close mowing, down to 5-6mm. This makes Bargold suitable for use across the turf management spectrum, including golf greens, tees, fairways and surrounds, bowling greens, cricket wickets and tennis courts, as well as the traditional applications of soccer and rugby pitches.

## Further advances for Blazon

Adding an effective drift control agent to the Blazon formulation as a single, ready to use product, has made a further advance.

Blazon LoDrift offers spray operators the best of both worlds. Maximum application accuracy, uniformity and target coverage, with minimum off-target application, reduced environmental contamination and wasted chemical.

In addition to the visual spray pattern providing the spray operator with a visual guide so that the spray swath can easily be seen and matched up on each return pass, Blazon LoDrift, ensures more of the very small spray droplets ('fines'), are contained and a greater proportion of the spray reaches its intended target ensuring increased product coverage, reduced off-target application and improved product performance.

Blazon-LoDrift has been developed to reduce the environmental impact of chemical and other spray treatments. Each product also features the Multiple Release Format™ technology.

Nutri-Rational Foliars are specifically formulated to bypass the root system and provide an efficient and reliable intake of nutrients through the leaf tissue. Over 95% of the nutrient intake is directly through the leaf. In addition, as the plant is obtaining its nutrition through the leaf, it is not wasting its energy reserves and therefore more able



Marketing Link's MD, Richard Fry, who markets the blazon range of products and Dr David Drahos at BTME

to tolerate stress more effectively.

The Nutri-Rational range includes N, P & K formulations (19.1.6, 6.12.6 & 2.0.16) combined with turf micronutrients and two more specialised products (6.0.4 plus 6% Ca, 0.2% B & 3.0.10 plus 1% Si) offering calcium and silica.

Also on the Green Relief stand was Dr David Drahos, of Novozymes Biologicals, the group research leader in the development of Green Reliefs range of microbial products, who in addition spoke on the BTME Seminar programme.

**Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to; The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**

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## Allen Power shows its latest range of hovers

On the Allen stand could be seen the new generation of hover mowers powered by the Honda four stroke petrol engine. These new power units provide easier starting, quieter, smoother running and reliable cutting without the need for mixing two stroke fuel. They will cut slopes up to 45 degrees and three variations are available with engine capacities ranging from 50cc to 160cc with nylon or traditional metal cutting blades depending on the model.



### The three models are:

440 Hover trim featuring 16in cutting width with swinging nylon blades and 2.5 hp, 50cc four stroke Honda engine.

446 Hover Trim with 18in cutting width with nylon blades and a 4.8hp 135cc four stroke engine. Designed for steep banks and undulating ground.

450 Hover Professional. A 21in cutting blade is powered by a 5.8hp, 160cc four stroke Honda engine. Designed for more heavy duty hover mowing.

## The grass is always greener. Always ...?

The grass that stays green all year round was formally unveiled at BTME 2002, giving turfgrass professionals across the amenity industry the opportunity to sow a hard-wearing seed mixture based on a newly-bred ryegrass that never goes yellow. According to ex-IGER1 scientist and British Seed Houses' Technical Consultant Dai Hides, the new Grade A26 SO-GREEN mixture represents a quantum leap in plant breeding. Speaking at the Show he said that the new seed offers unparalleled opportunities to keep lawns and other amenity grassed areas looking good, even under summer drought and other stress conditions. "Grade A26 SO-GREEN2 is the result of many years development, starting in 1969 after scientists at IGER noticed that leaves on one grass plant in a population failed to turn yellow over winter or during drought," he pointed out. "Now thanks to the IGER1 turfgrass programme - funded by British Seed Houses since 1987 and already credited with the development of AberElf and AberImp - a new 'stay green' perennial ryegrass called AberNile has been produced. AberNile is unique because it combines the 'stay green' benefit with all the other desirable characteristics required in an amenity ryegrass, such as high shoot density and an ability to withstand high levels of wear," explained Dai.

## Toro's Groundmaster receives an added punch

Toro unveiled the latest addition to its range of Groundmaster rotary mowers. The GM 4500-D has been specially developed for operators seeking a better quality of cut from a rotary mower.

The mower is fitted with five rotary cutting decks, which produce a consistent height of cut by accurately following undulating ground contours over a cutting width of 2.8 metres. Efficient operator manoeuvring and excellent visibility results from the balanced placement of three cutting decks out-front and two underneath.

Another feature of the new Groundmaster is its superb traction and hill-climbing ability, provided by full-time, bi-directional four-wheel drive that operates while the unit is mowing.

Toro also unveiled its revolutionary Greensmaster Flex 21 - which shaves greens closer than anything before.

The Flex 21, which has a 21 in cutting unit that not only flexes from side to side, but backwards and forwards too. It means the unit can hug the contours of the most undulating greens,



shaving the turf right down to one-sixteenth of an inch, with virtually no scalping.

The new greens mower has been developed in collaboration with greenkeepers and follows the move by the golf industry towards designing more-undulating, faster greens that take

advantage of new plant cultivars that can be clipped right down.

The Flex 21 is simple and easy to operate, with all controls easily reached via two handle-mounted levers. For quick and easy maintenance, removing just two bolts separates the cutting unit from the traction unit.

## Is Lindum's latest ryegrass, a turf for all seasons?

Lindum launched Ryegreen, their first fine-leaved ryegrass turf for golf greens, available to the industry from spring this year. Seeded in May 2001, and cultivated at the company's specialist turf nursery near York, this new sward containing 30% exceptionally fine ryegrass, 50% creeping red and 20% chewing fescue, is hardwearing, with a good recovery rate and the capacity to with-

stand mowing down to 7mms. Lindum's Managing Director Stephen Fell, who has been following STRI trials of the latest fine-leaved ryegrasses closely, says the Ryegreen is a welcome addition to the company's range.

"As growers, we are always willing to experiment, and following the successfully established cultivation of Ryegreen, we will be closely monitoring the emergence

of new ryegrasses with a view to subsequent sowings. Judging by the amount of enquiries we have received from course managers, these new varieties are already creating a great deal of interest."

Ryegreen, which is suitable for all fine turf areas and particularly applicable to pay and play courses, can also, due to its robust nature, be laid on tees, cricket wickets and tennis courts.

## Lastec unveil new addition



A new version of the world's only practical articulator rotary mowers will be launched in the Spring, revealed inventor and manufacturer, Lastec, at the BTME show. The company also announced that it will unveil a new flat pan mower around the same time. The new articulating mower will have a cutting width of 77 inches and will feature a deck that folds for ease of transport. It will be powered by a Kubota 33hp turbo charged engine which has Lastec's patent-pending automatic radiator cleaning system. The new flat pan mower will include several new features such as cast iron spindles, Marbain steel blades and an updated hinge design between its decks for long life.

## High-power helps to achieve low-costs

The use of higher horsepower tractors of 50hp plus can help cut golf course operating costs by up to 20%, according to Renault, but also enable valuable staff to have the time to complete more jobs around the course.

"The output benefits that a higher powered tractor provides is considerable," comments Ian Thomson, Renault's Groundcare Product Manager.

"With the even distribution of weight and the correct choice of tyres, course managers are finding that with larger tractors such as the Renault PALES and CERES ranges can do up to 80% of the jobs previously done with a smaller tractor, but far quicker and more efficiently."

Consistently courses have been reporting that this has helped them trim their operating costs by between 15% and 20%. Just as importantly, by getting more mundane jobs done faster, greens staff have additional time to pay more attention to detail and fine tune course presentation. In addition to helping cut costs, there are also Health and Safety benefits. Many courses have found that one of the biggest benefits of operating a larger tractor fitted with a loader, is the materials handling capability it provides, so enabling one person to quickly and safely off load materials on pallets, that previously might have required three people to off-load by hand.

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## Textron had something for everyone at show

Making its UK debut at BTME was the Iseki TK538 compact tractor complete with hydrostatic transmission, the latest addition to the TK range of compact tractors that combines power, strength and top performance to provide machines that are ideal for a variety of professional groundscape operations.

Powered by a water-cooled 3-cylinder turbo diesel engine developing 38hp, the TK538 hydrostatic offers smooth-changing, infinitely variable speed within three gear ranges.

With a lifting capacity of 1,300 kgs there's enough muscle to handle heavy, trailed or mounted implements with ease and the independent electro-hydraulic PTO system offers engagement and disengagement at the flick of a switch.

Also appearing for the first time at BTME, the Workhorse ST480 is the most powerful turf utility vehicle in the E-Z-GO Workhorse range.

With its 16hp Vanguard V-twin air cooled petrol engine and payload of 363.2kg, including operator, it has the power and performance required for a host of applications on golf courses, parks, leisure complexes, smallholdings, farms, woodland and amenity areas.

Robustly constructed to meet every eventuality, the front axle is articulated to ensure that the front wheels stay in contact with the ground, especially in steep approach and exit conditions.

Following the success of last year's No Pay 'Til May finance plan, Textron Total Care Finance has launched an innovative finance package for their complete range of golf and turf products - Pay-as-you-Play.

"This is a three year plan, tailored



to the income stream of any particular golf club. When a club purchases any item or package of equipment from our golf and turf range, the repayments are tailored for their maximum periods of income," explained Sales Director, Glynn Patrick.

"In reality this means that payments are made from May to October in the first season, followed by a six-month repayment holiday, then further payments begin in May the following season with this pattern repeated in year three to complete the purchase.

"We believe that this new package



offers excellent value and enables golf course owners and managers to procure quality equipment at an affordable price with a repayment structure tailored to their income stream."

## Aiming to make worm casts a thing of the past

Worm management is an increasing problem in the turf grass industry. Legislation is removing effective chemicals from use, leaving the turf grass manager with only mild alternatives with which to seek short-term solutions. The seaweed people introduced a new product that is the solution to worm cast problems.

Devised as a means of water purification, the Greensaver successfully treats algae, Escherichia coli, coliform germs and Clostridium. Knowing that numerous golf courses are irrigated from their own ponds and lakes, field trials were carried out and it was discovered that the solution produced by the Greensaver, known as Biodyozon, demonstrated an excellent expellant effect on earthworms.

Biodyozon is the liquid product processed by the Greensaver. Needing only a power supply, a water supply and salt tablets the electrolytic process of the Greensaver converts the water to Biodyozon. The solution being a short lived chlorine/oxygen combina-

tion is in a metastable state eventually returning back to water.

The Seaweed People stand at Harrogate had a constant stream of curious visitors eager to see a demonstration of Biodyozon in action.

Vino Pankhania, Managing director of Seaweed People says, "We have been looking for an environmentally friendly means of treating worms for some time, the results of Biodyozon have been outstanding, and interest from golf clubs is exceptional. We look forward to providing golf clubs with a real solution to what has become an annual problem."

The Seaweed People supplies over 600 golf clubs throughout the UK with Sea Nymph liquid fertilisers, in numerous formulations, seaweed meal products and compound fertilisers.



## Waste2Water smash expectations with latest product launch

Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System created a tremendous amount of interest at BTME. Orders were received from a number of golf courses for installation as soon as possible, including; Woburn Golf & Country Club, The Forest of Arden, Sunningdale Golf Club, and Lilley Brooke Golf Club. Most interesting was that more than one of the clubs chose to defer other expenditure to provide for this expenditure, which they viewed as essential. We are delighted as this confirms the increasing importance of environmental awareness, and recognition that it is within our reach to do something positive to assist nature.

## Richard Campey launch recycling attachment at show



Everyone appreciates the benefits of recycling, and now the same principle can be applied to sports turf, thanks to the latest attachment introduced at BTME 2002 by Campey Turf Care Systems. The new, heavy-duty Koro Recycling Dresser features two sets of different blades. These break up compacted soil to depths of up to 20cm and then recycle material from below the surface as a fine top-dressing. Two models were launched. The RD1650 has a working width of 165cm and can be powered by a tractor of 70hp or more. The RD2000 has a 200cm working width and requires a tractor of 85hp. Both machines are seen as ideal for the speedy renovation of heavily used, larger sports turf areas, such as soccer grounds, multi-pitch complexes and golf fairways. A major plus-point is that, as the machines 'recycle' the existing soil, less material has to be imported to site for turf renovation projects, saving time, effort and money.

## New image: New services

BTME 2002 was a significant show for seed company Cebeco Seeds, as it unveiled a new image and range of services to its customers that will combine technical support, new varieties and mixtures. Cebeco Seeds - previously known as Cebeco Oliver Seeds - supplies amenity seeds to the golf, sport and landscape industries and its new brand and name reinforces the integrated approach of the Cebeco group.

"The changes unveiled at BTME extend beyond the new brand image to include a change of strategy in our customer service and support," said the company's Amenity Product Manager, Roger Peacock.

"In particular, we are expanding the technical support available to customers, agronomists and specifiers, which will enable them to take full advantage of our superior technical knowledge and experience in grass seed varieties and mixtures."