

NEW PRODUCTS

SURF WITH CHARTERHOUSE

The latest website initiative from Charterhouse Turf Machinery makes looking for grounds care and landscaping equipment as easy as visiting a local department store. It also enables browsers to purchase certain items from the company's wide range at discounted prices, including machines aimed at landscape contractors and hire shop managers.

A key element of the new website, which can be found at www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk, is the Trade Direct initiative. This lists equipment from the company's Professional Pedestrian Machinery range and the Charterhouse Richmond divisions, the former offering items for landscape contractors, estate managers, hire shops and homeowners with large gardens, and the latter fulfilling the needs of foresters and grounds care professionals.

Trade Direct allows visitors to order on-line and enjoy savings of up to 35% on machines such as wheeled brushcutters and trimmers, pedestrian rotary mowers, chipper/shredders, and dagger soil compaction relievers, as well as lawn scarifiers, turf cutters and post hole borers. Savings up to 60% can similarly be made on consumables like trimmer lines and lapping paste. Most products are delivered from stock within three days and are backed by a 14-day, no-quibble refund guarantee.

The website also gives quick links to information on other Charterhouse Divisions, such as the Professional Division that handles turf care equipment like the Verti-Drain deep aerator, and the Antonio Carraro Division that distributes its range of high work-rate tractors.



CHAFER GRUB CONTROL

Chafers can create devastating damage to turf. Direct damage is caused by the larvae (grubs) feeding on roots and indirectly by predators feeding on the grubs. Grubs feeding on roots create characteristic yellowing and browning of the turf, furthermore, the damaged turf can easily be rolled off since much of the root system has been severed. Even slight damage can make the turf vulnerable to desiccation. High infestations of grubs in the soil provide a very attractive diet for predators. Badgers, foxes and crows will focus on infested areas, tearing away the turf to expose the grubs.

There have been no products available to deal with this pest. Until now...

New Nemasys G became available in July specifically to combat this pest. Nemasys G contains nematodes (*Heterorhabditis* sp.) which are natural predators of these grubs. These aggressive organisms actively seek out grubs in the soil and enter them through natural body openings. Once inside they quickly kill the grubs (see picture) and the nematodes reproduce to release a new generation of infective juveniles which disperse in search of further prey.

Nemasys G, supplied by Avoncrop Amenity and Aitken's Sportsturf, is in a water dispersible formulation which can be applied through standard spray equipment. Applications should be made in August to September – at the time when the grubs are active and are close to the soil surface.

Nemasys G is a biological product that is safe to applicators, course users and the environment. There are no restrictions in use and no re-entry interval required.

LIGHTWEIGHT TRIMMERS FROM CLAYMORE

Claymore Grass Machinery have introduced four new lightweight trimmers to their range of Solo Outdoor Power Equipment. All the new introductions feature easy-start primer systems, assuring quick and safe starting even after the engine has been switched off for long periods.

Model 105-L is a Solo 25cc 0.95hp powered unit with a curved shaft complete with semi-automatic nylon cutting head. A loop handle makes it easy to use for domestic trimming jobs around the garden and weighing only 4.1 kgs means less fatigue on the operator. Safety goggles supplied as standard.

The 106-L and 106-B are both straight shaft gear drive trimmers powered by Solo 25cc 0.95hp engines. The 106-L is equipped with a loop handle and weighs 4.3 kgs with a semi-automatic head.

The 106-B has bicycle handles, weighs 4.7 kgs and has a 4-tooth grass blade. Both models are supplied with nylon head, harness and safety goggles.

The fourth unit is the 106-R powered by a Robin 4 stroke 25cc engine rated at 1.1hp. Supplied with a loop handle, the new trimmer is gear driven and weighs 5.5 kgs. Standard equipment is a semi-automatic nylon head, shoulder harness and goggles.

RRP including Vat 105-L - £189; 106-L - £199; 106.B - £219 and 106-R - £249



NEW ATP LAUNCHED BY POLARIS

Polaris Britain launched its new All Terrain Pickup at The Royal Highland Show. The ATP breaks the mould of traditional ATV design and takes it to a new level of innovation and practicality.

"The new turf & amenity specialist" is how Jack Ford, General Manager of Polaris Britain, the new UK subsidiary formed last year by US based Polaris, sums up the qualities of this new machine.

"It embodies many of the design principles and proven components of the latest generation Polaris ATVs but then builds on these to create a unique new machine that will have particular appeal to users in turf & amenity markets."

The ATP has been designed to carry more and, with a unique new rear tipping box, to do this more easily. For convenience, the box has a tipping lever on both sides of the vehicle and a gas assisted shock for easier tipping.

The ATP is available powered either by the 500cc HO engine from the company's Sportsman ATV, which is liquid cooled and comes with Polaris EBS (engine braking system) as standard, or by its new 330cc engine.

Power is handled by the latest drum shift version of the proven Polaris Variable Transmission (PVT), which has a splice-less belt that carries a



limited lifetime guarantee from Polaris.

Polaris has also introduced its Versatrac electronic rear locking differential. This gives the ATP a 20% tighter turning radius when loaded, reduces steering effort and reduces scuffing on fine turf. The

Versatrac system is electronically controlled from a convenient switch on the handlebars that enables the operator to shift on the move from a turf setting to a locked setting providing solid rear axle 2WD or on to AWD whenever required, giving the ATP genuine all-terrain capability.

Carrying capacity and storage is exceptional in the ATP. A sealed storage box takes the place of the front rack, which takes loads inside and on top, where additional D-rings can be used to secure the load. A further 18 kg of sealed storage is available in compartments in the rear wings with hinged doors to protect the contents. Overall, the ATP can carry up to 231kg and pull a further 556kg taking it to a new level of all round performance.

The ATP became available at all Polaris utility ATV dealers in July.



TWO NEW HEDGE CUTTERS

Allen Power Equipment have introduced two petrol hedgecutters from Komatsu Zenoah.

The first is the eHT601D, a double sided, double reciprocating professional quality unit powered by a 21.7cc Komatsu Zenoah engine with the e-start easy starting system. New ergonomic design incorporates a rear handle adjustable through 180 degrees, and at 4.35kg is the lightest petrol hedgecutter in the world.

The second introduction is the eHT751S, a professional single sided double reciprocating blade unit, again powered by the 21.7cc Komatsu Zenoah engine.

The 750mm (30in) blades have a resin receive plate for a cleaner debris-free finish. Latest Komatsu Zenoah technology uses maximum power to weight ratio and at 4.45kg is the lightest in its class.

RRP including Vat eHT601 £429.95 and the eHT751S £459.95.

SUCCESSFUL ASSESSMENT

Nutrovate, developed by Blakedown Sport & Play for drainage and rootzone improvements, has been assessed by at the STRI laboratory at Bingley.

STRI's initial laboratory studies were designed to evaluate the performance of Nutrovate, and to assess optimum application rates of Nutrovate in sand and sand/soil mixes for use in sports turf areas.

In summary the tests confirmed:

- An amendment of 20% Nutrovate to two grades of sand and a sand/soil mix increased the cation exchange capacity in a medium course sand by up to 27 times.
- Total porosity, capillary porosity and air-filled porosity all significantly increased with the addition of Nutrovate to a rootzone. Tests suggest that Nutrovate amended rootzones show greater water retention and improve growing conditions in situations of water stress.
- Hardness and bulk density are significantly reduced by the addition of Nutrovate to rootzone. This has important implications for the playing quality of Nutrovate amended sports turf areas.
- It was established that sand/soil mixes incorporating Nutrovate can satisfy the criteria for physical performance outlined by the United States Golf Association (USGA).

IS IT SUNNY?

Dynamax has introduced a new sensor to measure solar radiation components. The Sunshine Sensor, model BF3, is a device that contains an array of photodiodes under a shaded dome, and calculates whether the sun is shining.

The special pattern of clear and opaque areas on the acrylic dome enables at least one photodiode to see an unobstructed solar disc, and at least one is always in full shadow.

The onboard processor calculates the direct, diffuse and total solar radiation values. The sensor provides two analog outputs corresponding to the diffuse and total components, and a digital output of sunshine presence.

In addition to meteorology, good applications include plant, crop, and forest canopy analysis.

The sunshine sensor is a major improvement because there are no electromechanical assemblies, burning paper to record sun tracks, nor need it be oriented towards north. Data from the sensor is easily recorded by Dynamax dataloggers and hand held computers.

