

NEW PRODUCTS

KUBOTA

The first-ever zero-turn ride-on mower to be introduced by Kubota in the UK and Ireland will be available for demonstrations from mid-March onwards.

Known as the GZD 15, the heavy-duty 1.07m (42in) cut mower is powered by a 15hp water-cooled Kubota diesel engine with both travel speed and direction controlled by a pair of paddle-type hand levers positioned immediately in front of the driver.

The combination of zero-turn radius and extremely compact dimensions makes the GZD 15 ideal for mowing in areas with limited access or turning space and for cutting close to trees, shrubs, buildings, borders, fences and walls.

To enhance the ability of the GZD 15 to pass through narrow openings and work in tight spaces, the mower is equipped with a twin-bladed through-cut deck which discharges all grass rearwards straight into an integrated 400 litre rear grass catcher, available in hydraulically-tipped low-dump or high dump (1.8m tip height) versions. This means that the cutter deck is the widest part of the machine, so if the mower is able to cut grass, it is also able to collect grass as there are no sideways protruding flaps, tubes or pipes between the deck and the grass collector.

The use by Kubota of a fully-sealed hydrostatic unit and final drive keeps transmission servicing requirements to a minimum and access to the engine is fast and simple thanks to the quick-tipping bonnet and seat.

For further information Tel: 01844 268163 or visit Kubota's website at www.kubota.co.uk



ALLEN POWER

The Allen Groundsman has been the flagship of the Walkover range of sprayers since the original purchase of the Cambridge company by Allen Power Equipment back in 1990.

Redesigned in 1993 to accommodate a larger tank and reduce manufacturing costs, the Groundsman has now again been updated with an improved spray boom that protects the nozzles behind a bumper bar and a simplified design that facilitates easier assembly.

The Groundsman still sprays a 24in width as before, and spraying rates are not altered as the jets remain the same.

The 25 litre tank allows spraying of up to 525 square metres (675 sq yds) in twelve minutes on one filling and marker wheels ensure 100% coverage.

For further information Tel: 01865 820731



HEADLAND

Headland's new Liquid Turf Hardener, introduced at BTME, is a sulphur free

formulation, high on Calcium with added Magnesium. Nitrates, used as a carrier, produce a rapid uptake of these two elements, which reduces stress on grass plants, increases strength and enhances disease resistance. Low application rates of up to 40 litres per hectare mean cost effective treatment, applied as and when required, regardless of season.

Should circumstances dictate, the product can be tank mixed with Headland's Multi-K soluble potassium nitrate and Seamac Proturf, which will add potash, further harden turf and produce excellent colour. When

additional nitrogen sources are added, application rates shrink to 20 litres per hectare in 300 to 600 gallons of water.

Trials throughout the winter indicate that Headland's new Liquid Turf Hardener is excellent at maintaining a strong, hard grass plant and aiding disease resistance.

For further information Tel: 01223 597834

Email: info@headlandamenity.com

TILLERS TURF

A novel approach has been created to increase the wear tolerance of grass, and to reduce surface hardness - with the use of rubber crumb incorporated into the rootzone, by Tillers Turf.

When grass surfaces are subject to heavy wear in wet weather, the top 25mm of the rootzone becomes compacted, leading to poor grass growth. By pre-mixing rubber crumb into a sand dominated rootzone, and then growing turf on it, Tillers Turf have produced a solution to the problem. By virtue of the rubber crumb's cushioning properties, the wear of the grass is greatly enhanced.

As the top 25mm of the rootzone is less compacted, the grass is able to grow in a far more favourable environment.

This has enormous potential for benefits to parks with a high volume of visitors, and indeed, successful trials using rubber crumb as a top dressing have been done at two National Trust properties already - Trellissick in Cornwall and Killerton in

Devon. Here, more than 100,000 people a year walk across the grassed areas. While in previous years grass areas had been reduced to muddy trails, this time they stayed fresh, green and unworn. Barry Champion, Head Gardener at Trellissick, says, "The rubber crumb works to relieve compaction, reinforce the grass and enhance the colour."

And recent tests by the STRI showed that measured values of hardness, recorded using a Clegg Impact Soil tester, were 20% lower on turf grown by Tillers with rubber crumb incorporated into the rootzone than on turf without rubber crumb.

"The implications are many, for all sorts of heavily used public parks and for sports such as football and golf. In fact, Sunningdale Golf Course have already taken delivery of a consignment to use on the high traffic areas between green and tee," said Tim Fell, of Tillers Turf.

For more information Tel: 01652 678000.



SISIS

New Health and Safety regulations mean that the need to fit ROP to greens and tees mowers could, in certain circumstances, become essential.

SISIS have developed a ROP bar for their Greenstar and Teestar ride-on triple mowers which has been tested and certificated. The ROP bar together with retractable safety belt and seat restrainer is now available as an option on new machines and is also available as a retrofit kit for existing Greenstars and Teestars.

CHARTERHOUSE

Given increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, contractors, landscapers and other grounds professionals are now typically faced with cutting grass in less than ideal conditions. Tough, heavy-duty mowing equipment is needed, such as the new Bunton walk-behind rotary mower, now available from Charterhouse.

Made in the USA by the Bunton organisation, which claims to be one of the world's largest manufacturers of commercial rotary mowers, this 36in (91cm) wide, rear discharge unit offered by Charterhouse features a rugged design to cope with the intensive and rough handling typical of use in local authority departments, contracting organisations and hire companies.

Powered by a 15hp Kawasaki V-twin engine, the mid-size machine is available with either geared transmission or hydrostatic drive, while finger-tip controls for the drive and the steering make them ideal for use on uneven terrain and slopes. The units offer a forward speed of 5mph and a zero-turn radius. A reverse gear is also provided.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery believe that the Bunton mowers are the perfect complement to their existing 'DR' trimmer range of walk-behind, wheeled brushcutters that can tackle heavy scrub and undergrowth.

For further information Tel: 01428 611222.



HUNTER GOLF

Hunter Golf has introduced the G870, the first electric valve-in head rotor with easy, through-the-top access to all serviceable components.

This design eliminates the need to dig or disturb the turf during routine service or other irrigation system maintenance.

All sprinkler components - including the internal gear-drive and valve, the pilot valve, pressure regulator, solenoid, valve seat and rock screen - can be pulled out for cleaning and maintenance while the Hunter rotor body remains in the ground.

This new through-the-top access is intended to save ground crews hours of time, while preserving the health and playability of the green, tees and fairways.

The G870 also features an "industry first" unitised valve. This all-in-one valve unit includes a snap ring, valve seal, valve seat and rock screen. During system maintenance, the crew can now pull out the unitised valve with a pair of needle-nosed pliers, flush the valve piping and repair leaks caused by soil or water contamination.

The procedure only takes minutes, rather than hours of disassembly and turf repair.

The G870 is available as a full circle or adjustable arc model (40° to 360°) and as an electric, check-o-matic or n.o. hydraulic sprinkler.

The G870 has a 8.75 cm pop-up riser and a discharge rate from 50 to 120 liters per minute in a 14m to 23m radius. Color-coded, interchangeable nozzles are included.

The G870 also features adjustable pressure regulation and exclusive Pressure Port nozzle system, which delivers close-in coverage and uniform water distribution.

For further information email: Hardwick@adwicks.com

