

NEW PRODUCTS

TORO LAUNCHES RAINSENSOR

Toro Irrigation has launched a wireless version and upgraded models of its two wired RainSensor Series.

The RainSensor works in conjunction with an irrigation controller to automatically shut off water when it rains. The three models in the new, enlarged series will give golf, sport and landscaping users even greater control of their irrigation programmes.

Toro's first wireless RainSensor brings with it the flexibility to install the sensor in the most suitable operating location, and has a 100m line-of-sight transmission range to a receiver. The receiver features a user-friendly LCD for simple programming and an easy to read icon display. It is also fitted with a rain/freeze sensor. This shuts off irrigation if the temperature falls below a level that is pre-set by the user.

The two wired RainSensor models are fitted with a sensor that features the option to select either 'normally closed' or 'normally open' for compatibility with older controllers. This ensures that irrigation still goes ahead, even in the unlikely event that the RainSensor fails.

Also included are four system shut-off points that can be adjusted to allow for different levels of rainfall depending on soil type. These units additionally come with an 8m pre-wired cable and a gutter- or eaves-mounted bracket for easy installation.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.



THE WATER STORAGE ANSWER

Waterproofing Services design and install a system that diverts rain from guttering and downpipes at golf courses to lakes that store the water until it is needed for irrigation. The created lakes then become an attractive and intrinsic part of the golf course, while also acting as a practical water store.

Clubhouses and outbuildings mean that most golf courses have a massive surface area of roofs. Rain that falls on these roofs normally just goes to ground and is wasted. This system makes full use of this important water by diverting and storing rain water, with the lakes being any size a club wants, from a few square metres to a whole football pitch.

With weather pundits predicting a hot summer and the Environment Agency's 'Water Resources Strategy' kicking in, golf courses are being urged to get their water recycling procedures in order, this system aims to help with this.

Waterproofing Services designs and installs lakes at golf clubs across the UK. Recent projects have included London & Hatfield Country Club, London Golf Club and Hanbury Manor.

For further information Tel: 07984 551374.



A TURF TO WITHSTAND WEATHER EXTREMES

Available for the first time in the UK, Rhizomatous Tall Fescue Turf, produced by Tillers Turf, tolerates both drought and shade. It has a very deep and robust root system, enabling it to withstand the extremes of the weather.

This is the ideal turf to make a difference to areas of the course that suffer regularly from die-back due to drought and if you find it difficult to maintain grass cover on a shaded tee.

RTF, bred by Barenbrug, is a new generation of tall fescue, which is unlike other tall fescues produces rhizomes. The rhizome sends a shoot up to the soil surface while extending new roots downward, forming new plant growth. This rhizomatous growth habit produces high tensile strength, fast establishment of turf and rapid recovery.

RTF turf has excellent wear tolerance, similar to perennial ryegrass. It is shade, salt and frost tolerant and will withstand both water logging and drought conditions. It has consistent colour throughout the summer and winter and flourished in all soil types.

With a rooting depth capability of 1.5 metres RTF turf is a choice for soil stabilisation. With low water and nutrient requirements, coupled with rhizomatous recovery, it is ideal for use in environmentally sustainable situations.

The Turf is suitable for close mowing down to 12mm and has a low build up of thatch. The hard leaf of RTF turf encourages the ball to sit up making it ideal for golf course fairways and semi-roughs.

For further information Tel: 01652 678000.

LATEST ROTADAIRON EQUIPMENT

The Rotadairon range of specialist soil renovators, stone buriers, de-thatchers and seeders for the amenity and sports sector has been expanded in recent months, including specialised turf de-thatchers and seeder units.

The soil renovators are available in several sizes and specifications for different requirements and tractor power ratings. When used in combination with a seeder unit, ground can be prepared and seeded in a single pass, which speeds up the process and avoids ground drying out between operations.

The machines incorporate a cutting rotor that spins against the direction of travel, minimising compaction and panning. Soil is screened and separated so that coarse material is covered by fine soil, producing a structure with good drainage and aeration that is easy for roots to penetrate.

For de-thatching work, Rotadairon offers the CR140 general-purpose model,



which can also be used with a seeder unit, and the ED130 model for fine turf, such as golf greens, where a high degree of accuracy is required. This machine has over 150 specially designed blades closely spaced on a 1.3 metre wide rotor, and working depth can be set very accurately. Blade-changing is particularly quick and easy. With the PTO disconnected, the ED130 can also be used as a slitter/aerator.

Rotadairon seeder units are available either to fit behind a soil

renovator, so ground can be prepared and seeded in a single pass, or as separate tractor-mounted units for use on already prepared ground.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151.



NEW FM524

Showcased recently by Hayter was the latest version of the FM524. The Hayter FM524 fairway mower has undergone a number of developments since its introduction in the mid 1990's.

The main change is the new styling. Another change is larger front tyres, which reduce ground pressure and the risk of marking in difficult conditions. Features like hinged or removable panels, allowing easy access to all components for easy cleaning, maintenance and service have remained. The operating position, providing excellent visibility and comfort, so important for prolonged fairway cutting, has also remained exactly the same.

For more information Tel: 01279 723444.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIC ABSORBENT

Sphag Sorb, the Environmental Organic Absorbent, supplied by Eco-spill.com, is an all natural product manufactured from sphagnum peat moss originating in the bogs of Canada and has been approved by the Environment Agency as a peat based oil absorbent.

Sprinkled on the oil spill as soon as it happens Sphag Sorb gets to work quickly, its powerful wicking action absorbs hydrocarbons and solvents, encapsulating these liquids on contact and because Sphag Sorb will not absorb water it can be used on wet grass.

Removal of the contaminated absorbent could not be easier. Simply brush as much as can be picked up and then mow the affected area collecting the absorbent into the grass box, any absorbent left on the grass will not harm the environment as the Sphag Sorb will, overtime, breakdown the captured oil before breaking down the Sphag Sorb which safely contains it.

Save the contaminated Sphag Sorb and after 90 days the bio remedial process should be complete and the Sphag Sorb can be safely disposed of back to the environment.

For further information Tel: 01934 514648.



SMALL BUT POWERFUL

Claas has worked with Bartram Mowers, their specialist groundcare dealer for East Anglia, to create a specialist low profile mowing combination, using the new Nectis tractor range fitted with Ransomes MK 4 5/7 mowers.

A total of four Nectis models are available which, although they only have an overall cab height as low as 2.32 metres, depending on tyres, still pack quite a punch as power outputs from the naturally aspirated or turbo charged 3- and 4-cylinder engines range from 68hp up to 101hp.

In standard format, the Nectis comes with a 30kph mechanical 12 forward/12 reverse speed transmission, but it is recommended that for maximum output when using mowers such as the Ransomes, the tractor is better fitted with the optional twinshift and revershift 40kph transmission. This has a two-speed electro-hydraulic clutchless splitter within each mechanical gear, giving a total of 24 forward and 12 reverse speeds, plus a clutchless reverser, to avoid repeated use of the clutch.

Both two- and four-wheel drive models are available. On four-wheel drive versions, drive to the front axle is engaged using a rocker switch on the dashboard and they have the facility to be used in automatic or permanent modes. In automatic, four-wheel drive is disengaged above 14kph and re-activated below this speed, and will also be engaged when the engine is switched off, when the brakes are applied or when the differential lock is used. In permanent drive remains engaged regardless of speed.



A wide range of agricultural or turf tyres are available and due to the cut-away design of the engine chassis, all two- or four-wheel drive models have a steering angle of 55 degrees and a minimum turning circle of just 3.45 metres.

For operations such as vertidrainage or slitting, the rear mechanically controlled three-point linkage has a maximum lift capacity of 3,138kg and allows both the draft sensitivity and speed of linkage drop to be adjusted. The Claas TCE six Electronic Linkage control is available as an option that uses dials to set the main draft, position and height settings, with a press button for raise, neutralise and to lower the linkage.

Nectis is fitted with a six-spline PTO with groundspeed, 540 and 540 ECO speeds gradually engaged using a hydraulically assisted clutch to avoid overload.

As standard, the Nectis range comes with a two-pump hydraulic system, with a 48 l/min pump serving the braking, hydraulics and spool valve systems, while the second 27 l/min pump serves the steering and clutch systems.

The cab on the Nectis has an extremely low transmission tunnel, which is only 14cm high. The cab is ISO mounted to eliminate vibration and is

fitted with a pneumatic seat. The dashboard incorporates an LCD display, which in addition to a constant readout of forward speed, can also provide information on the total or temporary working hours, a clock or the rear PTO speed.

For Further information Tel: 01284 763100.



KIOTI EXPAND RANGE

The latest models to join the Kioti range of compact tractors have been unveiled by their UK distributor, Rustons Engineering. There are now seven engine sizes in the range with a choice of specifications and attachments.

Designed specifically for the amenity market, the new models have 25hp or 30hp three-cylinder engines and are fully EU homologated. They are available with hydrostatic transmission or a manual gearbox with eight forward and eight reverse gears, including synchromesh forward/reverse shuttle. Hydrostatic power steering is standard, and options include a second double acting spool valve and mid-PTO.

The lifting capacity of the three-point hitch is 800kg. A front hitch, backhoes and front-end loaders with a quick fit attachment system are available as optional equipment.

The tractors are built in South Korea by Daedong and this modern plant, near Seoul, meets ISO9001 quality management standards and ISO 14001 environmental management standards.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151.