



## Less Mowing, More Growing

The current harsh economic climate has seen councils forced to reduce their mowing frequency.

This has resulted in the requirement for grass cutting equipment to withstand more demanding applications and longer grass.

However, there may be issues with roller mower performance in these conditions, which is not surprising as the roller mower

was designed as a fine turf mower.

To counter this, Broadwood International have redesigned the popular Wessex RMX 360 and RMX 480 hydraulically folding roller mowers, to allow larger volumes of cut grass to clear the deck quickly and so greatly increasing performance in longer grass applications.

The two machines are available as 3 point linkage

mounted or trailed on the popular ProGlider chassis and are ideal for councils, contractors, air fields, race tracks and other large amenity areas. Smaller, rigid models from 1.8m to 3.0m are popular with councils, schools and sports clubs.

Broadwood offer free demonstrations in conjunction with local dealers.

Call 01420 478111.  
www.broadwoodintl.co.uk

## Basis Points

BCPC has just launched its newly designed UK Pesticide Guide Online.

This comprehensive database provides information on over 1,300 pesticides and adjuvants for pest control use in the UK.

"Plantprotection.co.uk provides you with essential pesticide information at your fingertips," advises Martin Lainsbury, editor of BCPC's The UK Pesticide Guide.

"Users can access product, adjuvant and supplier factsheets, search for control measures against specific diseases in chosen crops and access an up-to-date list of SOLAs (now known as Extensions of Authorisation for Minor Uses). There are also quick links to the relevant documents on the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) web site."

Responding to user feedback the redesigned site has simplified navigational options, making it much more user-friendly.

Users now have the opportunity to make more complex searches, and regular updates will be made to the content throughout the year ensuring users have the most up-to-date pesticide information to hand.

12 months subscription to plantprotection.co.uk, which is jointly marketed by BCPC and CABI, is just £60 + VAT.

BASIS members who subscribe to plantprotection.co.uk can gain 3 CPD points with their purchase and all subscribers will have free access to BCPC's Identipest pictorial diagnostic tool identifying pests, weeds and diseases in 34 UK field crops.



## Go Solo With a New Strap-on Sprayer

From cutting back overgrowth, tidying up battered and broken branches or spraying turf for disease, the Solo outdoor equipment range has everything you need to keep your course in top condition.

Solo's backpack sprayers, boast a generous spraying capacity, and even liquid distribution together with a light weight that allows for longer working periods.

Solo state these compact yet powerful sprayers are ideal for an array of tasks: easily and effectively handling fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, disinfectants and formulations for tree, shrub and plant protection as well as wood or concrete finishing and treatments.

They are easy to operate and

maintain with an ergonomic design, and padded shoulder straps ensure the sprayers fit comfortably against the body.

To find out more about the Solo product range,

including the 142 and 154 Series brushcutters, and the 651 SP power chainsaw, call distributor Lely UK's Roger Lupton on 01480 226800 or email solo.uk@lely.com.



# Heavy Duty Gator



## Gets a Makeover

John Deere's 24hp ProGator 2030A diesel utility vehicle has been improved for 2012 with the addition of hydraulic disk brakes on all four wheels for increased performance, and a higher maximum payload capacity of 1594kg.

This new version of the heavy-duty, two-seater ProGator also features enhanced styling, including a green two-post ROPS frame in common with other John Deere self-propelled machines. It can be equipped with a standard tipping cargo box for use as a general materials transporter, or with specialist turf maintenance equipment for a wide range of applications in the golf & turf and commercial groundscape markets.

These include sprayers (such as the John Deere HD200), spreaders, top dressers (including John Deere's own TD100), materials collection systems

and other equipment capable of utilising the vehicle's factory installed auxiliary hydraulic services.

The ProGator has a five forward, one reverse speed synchronised transmission, now with a tighter gear shifting pattern, and a maximum speed of nearly 20mph.

It offers a choice of two- or optional four-wheel drive plus full front and rear suspension, hydrostatic power steering and a large 30-litre fuel tank.

The tilting steering wheel has five positions for maximum driver comfort.

Cargo box capacity is 876kg and towing capacity at the rear hitch is 680kg, while overall payload capacity with driver, passenger and loaded attachment has increased by nearly a third. An optional cab can also be fitted in place of the ProGator's standard ROPS frame.

## New Training Book for Turfcare Technicians

John Deere highlights its award-winning engineering apprenticeship programme with the publication of a new training prospectus, designed to promote training and careers in the turfcare industry.

Aimed at young people aged 16 to 19 interested in a career in landbased engineering, the prospectus provides details of John Deere's apprentice technician and parts training programmes, managed by training provider Babcock.

"Apprentice technicians will very quickly find themselves working with highly sophisticated equipment, from computerised controls and satellite navigation systems to advanced, fuel-efficient engines and Formula 1 transmission technology," says John Deere Limited's training manager Chris Wiltshire.

The programmes are based at Babcock's purpose built training facility in Ruddington, near Nottingham. The John Deere apprenticeship is the first landbased agricultural and turf machinery programme with training delivered in the workplace, with assessment and guidance from Babcock's team of expert learning advisers.

Technicians on the programmes work towards City & Guilds or NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications. Turf Tech apprentices can go on to gain the John Deere Diploma and register at LTA Level 2 in the industry's Landbased Technician Accreditation scheme, while starting their adult training within the John Deere University.

Applications are now being invited for enrolment on the next set of courses starting in September 2012.

[www.JohnDeere.co.uk](http://www.JohnDeere.co.uk) or call Babcock on 0870 013 0325; an online application form is also available on the Babcock website at [www.babcocktraining.co.uk/info/landbased](http://www.babcocktraining.co.uk/info/landbased)

### John Deere Engineering Apprenticeships

JOHN DEERE



An engineering apprenticeship with John Deere is your stepping stone to a rewarding career

## XYLEM LOWARA LAUNCH NEW FLOODKIT



Xylem Lowara has launched a new easy to use emergency dewatering kit for light commercial buildings, which are at risk of flooding.

The new kit, called Floodkit, contains a stainless steel Lowara DOC3 drainage pump which requires a power supply of 220-240v in order to deliver heads of up to seven meters. The pump has a six meter long flexible hose, quick coupling to ensure fast deployment and a float switch which automatically stops the

pump, once the water level has receded.

The equipment is contained inside a plastic crate that can be used to store the kit when not in use, or as a strainer during operation. The Lowara Floodkit requires no special tools to setup, once the pump start-stop is adjusted and the float switch level is set, the pump is ready for use.

Floodkit provides a quick and efficient solution to flash flooding and is ideal for use in flooded basements, garages or in residential and light

commercial buildings, such as shops, cafes and offices. The lightweight kit weighs 8kg for easy transportation and comes with a ten meter power cable for ease of use in hard to reach areas. All materials on the kit are corrosion resistant.

Gary Wilde, Business Development & Marketing Manager for Xylem Lowara UK, comments: "As with any flood situation, time is of the essence and the Lowara Floodkit can be set up instantly."

[www.lowara.co.uk](http://www.lowara.co.uk)

## Husqvarna Turn to Ride-On Battery Power

Husqvarna has announced the launch of its eagerly awaited battery products. A total of seven handheld machines, range of accessories and the flagship of the series - Husqvarna's first front-mounted Rider Battery (below) will be launched in the UK during late 2012 and early 2013.

Although a number of battery products have already been released, this will be the first unified battery range for Husqvarna.

With the same genuine feel and professional results as the petrol range, the battery products will be free from direct emissions and deliver low levels of sound and vibration. The

battery range will also provide finely tuned weight distribution and a special energy saving mode.

An interchangeable battery system between products as well as a highly efficient quick-charge mechanism is also on offer.

Husqvarna now hopes to gain significant presence in the battery segment.

When setting out to design their

first ever battery powered Rider the perfect place to start was its Rider 111B - its lightest petrol driven ride-on lawnmower for domestic use - highly appreciated for its handling abilities, ergonomics and efficiency. The new model builds on the same weight optimised platform, but with completely new technical solutions inside. Made for the environmentally conscious homeowner it offers not only operation - free from direct emissions - but also an extremely low noise level.

"Our goal was to reach at least the same level as our petrol driven models. A full tank generally equals about 90 minutes of mowing, which is just what you get from a fully charged battery," explained Andy Eastaugh, Trade Marketing Manager at Husqvarna.



**Battery Power**

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## A cut above...

This new 553 RBX brush cutter, also from Husqvarna, has been developed to deal with the toughest grass and brush-clearing in difficult terrain. Featuring heavy duty bevel gears and a specific grass bevel gear, the 553 RBX is designed to ensure high torque is available and cutting equipment remains parallel to the ground, helping to achieve the best cutting results.



## Clipless

Clipless, a new plant growth regulator from Headland, works by blocking the production of a specific gibberellic acid, a plant hormone responsible for promoting top growth in grasses within the plant leaf, stopping cell elongation and upward growth.

The pesticide is absorbed by the grass foliage and transported to the growing points at the base of the plants. One application helps shorten the blades of grass for up to 4 weeks. This results in a more compact growth habit. Energy is diverted away from vertical growth towards lateral growth and root development, providing a closer, denser sward.

The result is a turf that not only requires less mowing, but also producing a more robust plant with extra ground cover.

Mark De Ath, Headlands Operations Director, concludes: "Not only can it help to create a grass plant more able to withstand all types of mechanical and physiological stress, it also helps produce a higher quality playing surface across all areas."