

# Who to watch for at the Show



**Rolawn (Stand E7)** are exhibiting four grades of purpose-grown turf at Stoneleigh: Advantage – supplied guaranteed free of annual meadow grass and professionally maintained to enable greens to be brought into play quickly; Select – a really fine turf for areas where non-ryegrass turf is essential; Medallion – for more hard wearing tees and landscaping sites around the clubhouse; Sports – an extra hard-wearing grade of turf. Recent prestigious Clubs using Advantage include Ballyunion and Turnberry and the new Jack Nicklaus course at Mount Juliet in Kilkenny. Pictured is Wavendon Golf Centre, turf with Rolawn Advantage.



**Nomix Chipman (D7)**. Just one year after its widespread launch into the amenity sector, the Nomix Compact, pictured, has received a 1991, Design Council, British Design Award. Key to the system is a snap-in chemical cartridge that significantly reduces the risks of operator contamination. With properly formulated chemicals and a unique disc design, the company has also been able to demonstrate a forty-fold reduction in spray drift compared to knapsack sprayers. It retails at £86. plus VAT.

**Interseeds Ltd (J9)** will be detailing their 23 specialist 'PRO' range of grass seed mixtures, 10 PROFLOA wild flower mixtures and 20 PROFERT Fertilisers. Their main grass varieties include Lisabelle & Lisuna perennial ryegrasses, Lifalla Chewings fescue, Liprosa slender creeping red fescue and Limousine smooth stalked meadow grass – the latter top-rated in the UK and used in the PRO 40 and PRO 45 mixtures for golf tees and fairways. Two new mixtures – PRO 5 and PRO 55 – have been launched this year for use on golf greens. Of particular interest is their 'Liquid Sod' pre-germinated grass seed which provides rapid establishment of grass on golf greens, tees and fairways.

**ICI Professional Products (D16)** will be displaying their wide range of products including the highly successful range of 'Longlife' fertilisers, plus the specialist tree and shrub fertiliser 'Enmag', a unique product that provides plant nutrients in a slow soluble form. Major emphasis at the show will be placed on the 'Caseron' range of pre and post emergent herbicides where two applicators will be featured. These are the 'Cascade' hand held applicator, pictured, and the 'Urgent' 101 back pack machine. A new Technical Information Bulletin covering all aspects of 'Caseron' will be available for the first time. Call on the ICI stand for a free copy.



An exciting feature at this years **Rhone-Poulenc** stand (E11) will be a demonstration of DATACHEM, a new computerised interactive information system on the safe handling and use of pesticides. Also displayed will be the extended range of CDA products, new up-dated CDA

equipment with added safety features plus two granular herbicides - Simfix Granules and Borocil K. The Rhone-Poulenc Team will be on hand to assist with technical advice and information and extend a warm welcome to all visitors.

**Watermation (L14)** will be showing their very comprehensive range of irrigation equipment covering all aspects of water requirements, including long range golf course automatic sprinklers and controllers. Their latest long range sprinkler is the GN5 pop-up, designed and manufactured in England by Watermation. This comes with an optional turf top and has a throw between 85 -100 feet.

**Shelley Signs Ltd (C6)** will be exhibiting examples of their manufactured GRP signs and interpretive panels. This material – Glass reinforced plastic – has the advantage of being extremely durable and is ideal for external use. Shelley Signs also specialise in golf course entrance signs (which can be free-standing), layouts, plans and tee

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# Who to watch for at the Show

marker plates, and will draw up design proposals to meet individual requirements. Shelley Signs Ltd are at Eaton-on-Tern, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 2BX.

**D.W.Frost (Wholesale Nurseries) Ltd (M11)** aim to provide their customers with good quality plants, backed up by an efficient service generated from their Nursery situated at Old Fosseyway, on the A46 Leicester-Newark Road one mile north of Bingham. Here at their container unit of 15 acres they produce high quality container grown trees, shrubs, roses and amenity plants for use by Local Authorities and Landscape Contractors. They also produce a large number of open ground trees; whips; and amenity type shrubs of all sizes for supply between November and April.

**Britannic Garden Furniture (A9)** produce a collection of high quality teak outdoor furniture in designs that are simple, sturdy and stylish. Benches range from 4ft two seaters to 8ft four seaters, all with matching armchairs. New to Britannic's range is the tree seat made to surround any size of tree and available in various styles. Britannic are in the Good Wood Guide, the Friends of The Earth Handbook. They provide a carving or engraving service for donated benches.

**Donath Seeds (A20)** are proud to have been appointed the UK distributors for the Finn Corporation: manufacturers of quality hydroseeding equipment, and Conwed Fibers: manufacturers of hydraulic wood fibre mulches and mattings. These two product lines complement Donath's main seed business where they specialise in the formulation of customised grass and wildflower mixtures. Hydroseeding, as a method of seed application, is widely used on golf courses throughout the USA, where the cost effectiveness, germination enhancement and consequent speedy seedling establishment of the technique have proved invaluable over many years.

**Gloster Leisure Furniture (M18)** is introducing new additions to its range of solid teak furniture at Landscape Industries '91, including a new bench for feature locations, a new table ideal for outdoor caterers and a new litter bin which can be fixed directly to concrete. The 'Sunray' bench features a unique sunburst design on twin back panels, a contoured seat panel and wide flat arms for comfort. A medium weight design, the new bench is available in 4 & 5ft lengths.

The **Bobcat Melroe Europe** display (**FLD 75T** and **75W**) will feature new machines amongst their existing range of skid-steer loaders, compact excavators and trenchers including specialised easy-to-fit attachments. From the ten model skid-steer loader range the new generation 50 series will predominate, supported by models 443 & 543, all popular in landscaping operations with major attachments being the landscape rake, post hole auger and dirt buckets.

**Amenity Land Services (F7)** offer a wide variety of goods and services to the landscape, forestry and amenity sectors. Featuring this year will be their Tree & Shrub Plant Fertiliser, Fine Turf products, Contract Weed Control services, Tree ties and planting sundries. Amenity Land Services welcome customers old and new and are holding a free draw for several Nomix Compact Sprayers for those registering at their stand.

**Sierra (UK) Ltd** show (**D22**) their most recent addition in specialist turfcare controlled release fertiliser: Sierra turfmix (28:5:7+Fe), the first turf feed to combine readily available iron, nitrogen and phosphate with controlled release NPK. Thus one application in early spring promotes rapid greening and controlled regrowth of outfields and fairways for up to 7 months. Also on show are Osmocote N (39:0:0) which enhances tee turf repair and steady growth without flushes and 5-6 month Osmocote Mini granules (18:6:11), which provide complete controlled release nutrition for fine greens turf without disruption of play. Sierra CRF's release nutrients according to soil temperature, thus matching turf growth.

**Melcourt Industries (5T&5W)**, leading producers of bark and bark based products will be making good use of an outside stand to show their full range of mulches in a landscaped setting which shows the variety of effects that can be achieved. Produced from home grown timber, Melcourt's range of mulches, soil conditioners and surfaces are all 100% organic and free from pesticides and chemicals.

**Supaturf Products** of Narborough, Leics. (**L19**) will be showing their new, totally organic based fertiliser -Greenex. Specially mixed to a 5:0:3 formula for fine turf areas, Greenex is made from the very best organic materials including hoof and horn, dried blood, seaweed meal and cocoa shell. Also on display will be a range of Aqua-Gro wetting agents and the Advantage applicator for applying Aqua-Gro through a standard hose-pipe during normal irrigation. Look also for the Even-Spreading fertiliser spreaders, Top-Line marking machines and speciality turf care and amenity products.

**Johnsons Seeds (H20)** has not only updated many existing mixtures but introduced a series of classifications for their 1991 J Range - including some for golf courses. Although prominence will be given to the JL Range, Johnsons other five seed mixture ranges will also be featured. They are: J range for overall sports and amenity applications; JR range for reclamation work; JF range for naturalistic landscapes; JT range for turf growers and JG range for golf course renovation and creation. The Golf range includes six mixtures - JG61 to JG65 plus Greensmaster - providing a recommended mixture for Greens, Tees, Fairways and Roughs.

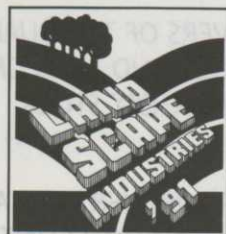
**British Seed Houses (EX L3)** will be exhibiting an interesting display of photographs covering some of the major projects where their range of amenity grass seed, sportsground fertilisers and wild flora conservation mixtures have been used over the past 18 months. They are particularly pleased with the results that have been achieved with their A22 low maintenance ryegrass mixture, which shows a saving of up to 40% less cutting than a normal ryegrass mixture. A new booklet has recently been prepared giving details of their 15 different wild flora mixtures, which contains full cultivation and management information. During the exhibition the company's fully qualified staff will be available to answer technical questions on their range of products.



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## TRADE TOPICS

■ Talking with Jon Allbutt recently I learned that despite a lapse of 15 months since the introduction of the COSHH Regulations many Clubs are still deferring a decision to carry out risk assessments. This prompts me to suggest that they might do well to listen to some of their colleagues who are currently labouring under Enforcement Notices issued by Inspectors after a visit and inspection. There is also some action being undertaken by Inspectors under the Control of Pollution Act where it was found that disposal arrangements were inadequate and considered to be a source of river pollution. The River Authorities are also active in investigating sources of high levels of pesticides in water. This is not the professional approach that is expected of our industry. Need help? Perhaps Jon is your man – call him on 0959 75575.

■ The exceptionally hot summer of 1990 found many greenkeepers in trouble, with recommended greases melting, causing turf damage and leaving unsightly marks. The green staff at New Zealand GC, Surrey, discovered a grease previously used in the bakery industry that enabled them to extend the lube intervals from a recommended once daily to once every five days on their turf aerators. The procedure for just one machine was reduced from 7.5 hours weekly to just one application taking 1.5 hours, and the synthetic grease, made by Pen Lubrication Ltd, Woking, (tel: 0483 765233) did not melt.

■ John Deere's commitment to the groundcare market in the UK has increased further with the announcement of two new dealer franchises in Suffolk and Lancashire. The signings – with Tomlinson Groundcare of Stowmarket and Cornthwaite Farm Equipment of Ormskirk – coincide with the introduction of a number of new machines for the pro. market including riding mowers, lawn tractors and trimmers.



**Douglas Walker, M.D. of John Deere, with Cornthwaite's Groundcare Manager, Walter Pearson**

■ Supaturf Products Ltd of Narborough, Leicester, have introduced a new, totally organic fertiliser to their amenity range named Greenex. Specially prepared to a 5: 0: 3 formula for fine turf areas where quality is important, it can be used from January to October. The nitrogen content is made of organic materials such as hoof & horn, dried blood, seaweed meal and cocoa shell, formulated to release nutrients that correspond to normal growth patterns of grass in prevailing climatic conditions. A descriptive brochure is available, Tel: 0533 750256.

■ Available from Mommersteeg, A Seedsman's Guide to Amenity Grasses is a most useful little manual, covering sowing techniques, weed invasion, land reclamation etc. With many illustrations, a copy may be obtained from Mommersteeg Seed Co. Finedon, Wellingborough, NN9 5NT.

■ The HSE have issued a new guidance note: (GS 48) Training Standards of Competence for Users of Chainsaws. It sets out the guidelines for the selection of chainsaw operators, their training and certification. Having seen some pretty bloody accidents I feel this is long overdue and all who have chainsaws will need to check that they comply. The Guidance Note also sets out the Levels of Certification and who the recognised training bodies are. Inspectors use these Notes when inspecting premises and will be expecting employers to be aware of them and have taken action to meet the standards. Being warned is one thing, being trained is another... perhaps another case for calling Jon Allbutt?

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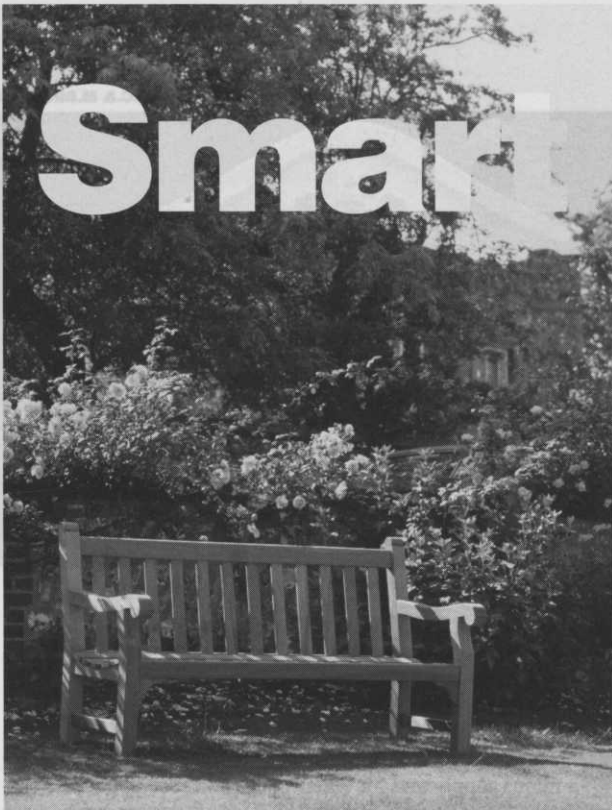
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# Smart moves to make...



The state of Golf Course furniture, equipment and signs, mirrors the image of the club... at least to the casual observer. Greenkeeper International suggests ways to give every club that certain something to make golfers keep on coming back



Pictured: left, the teak Mendip seat by Lister/Geebro. Above: vandal-resistant fountain by Maestro

Few things are more off-putting to members or visitors than the sight of totally clapped-out shoe brushing equipment, scruffy signs (or none at all) and tatty perimeter fences with broken chains. Taken further, a lack of seating, tee markers made from upturned buckets of concrete and shortage of litter bins are constant irritants. On the other hand, attractive premises demonstrate the professional image the modern greenkeeper seeks to project which, apart from impressing outsiders, help also to improve employee morale and performance.

Perhaps the most obvious and certainly the most useful memorial a Club might install when a well respected member 'shuffles off this mortal coil' is the bench seat. Speaking with Alan Bradley, Marketing Director of Lister by Geebro, he advises that if such a memorial is to be a lasting one there are certain criteria to be observed, with the most obvious being 'make sure it can't be stolen! Though teak made seats (the number one choice, being totally maintenance free) are very heavy, a determined gang of thieves might still man-handle them and the recommendation is that solid anchorages be used. Further points to insist upon are

rounded, substantial armrests, contoured seats that mirror the anatomy, sloping backrests, screws that are dowelled and, above all, units that are heavy in weight. The temptation to choose lightweight seating should be avoided, for solid teak – taken from state controlled plantations in Java – outlasts other timbers and will survive perfectly for more than 100 years. Inscriptions, either directly carved onto a backrest or engraved on brass plates, are available from most leading manufacturers.

There is no excuse for a lack of litter bins. These are comparatively inexpensive and in some cases, if on-course advertising is not anathema to a Club, may be paid for through local trade support. Personally, I'm all for the neat and uncluttered look and would plump for a well designed, solidly made job that blends sympathetically rather than distracting. The choice is wide and we should remember: far more litter is discarded indiscriminately when bins are not readily to hand.

Remember those sweltering summer days? Are your water fountains in working order or do they need replacing? There is a growing demand both for standard fountains

● Continued overleaf

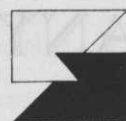
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GRP sculptured sign by A.C. & M. Birch Ltd



## Signs to be seen

● From previous page  
tapped into a mains supply and for water coolers – more applicable perhaps when major tournaments are staged. Manufacturers have made huge strides in producing vandal-proof units and though not cheap they offer a most welcome break that is always remembered.

Today's golf course signs really are excellent and are guaranteed to enhance any course. Choose from glass reinforced plastic, which is virtually maintenance free and strong and chip resistant, or pressed metal, wood or even granite, which is ideal in areas that experience high vandalism. There appears to be no limit to the multiplicity of designs, course data and logos that manufacturers now offer, with some prepared to give a tailor-made service that includes individual hole plans contoured in relief. The appearance of any course is instantly uplifted by such signs and most require little or no maintenance.

Neglect of obvious little items can mean instant irritation, so when installing shoe cleaning equipment make sure that replacement brushes are readily available, keep spares close to hand and replace them regularly before they begin to fall apart. Keep ball washers filled; and if you're still using those dreadful tin box and sliding brush affairs, take a close look at the foolproof rotary style cast metal ball cleaners or the many enterprising designs imported from the USA.

Neat direction indicators, maintenance free plastic coated chain fencing, putting green flags, water hazard ball retrievers, when in apple-pie order, (which means free from rust and not ready for the scrap-heap,) these will create an orderly appearance that will say to the visitor or member – here is a Club that is proud, stylish and orderly. The kudos will quite rightly belong to the greenkeeper.



Tree seat by Britannic Teak

## Boom sprayer calibration chart

Read vehicle/sprayer handbook, read label and note the following:

Vehicle details.....  
 Sprayer details.....  
 Application rate of product.....Spray quality.....  
 Water volume.....Pressure.....

### 1. Calculate forward speed

$$\frac{360}{\text{Time to travel 100m (Seconds)}} = \text{Forward speed (KM/hour)}$$

Now enter forward speed in the second box of Step 2 and middle box of second row in Step 5 below.

### 2. Calculate nozzle output required

In the first box below put in the target volume of water per hectare, chosen after reading the label.

$$\frac{\text{Target volume (Litres/HA)} \times \text{Speed (KM/hour)} \times \text{Nozzle spacing (Metres)}}{600} = \text{Target nozzle output required (Litres/Minute)}$$

### 3. Select correct type of nozzle and pressure, as near to the target nozzle output required as possible, using the operator handbook:

Nozzle and pressure details.....

### 4. Now fit nozzles and check the actual output achieved, using a measuring jug

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Left side										Right side									

Enter flow readings in litres per minute for each numbered position on boom and change any nozzle giving a variation of + or - 5%.

NOTE:

Nozzles not giving the correct flow should be removed and replaced: make sure to dispose of faulty nozzles to avoid using another time.

Enter the actual average output of one nozzle obtained in the jug test in the first box of Step 5 below.

### 5. To find out the actual output of the machine (in litres/HA), using the nozzles and pressure selected

$$\frac{\text{Output of one nozzle (Litres/Minute)} \times \text{Number of nozzles}}{\text{Total output of machine (Litres/Minute)}} \times \frac{600}{\text{Speed (KM/hour)} \times \text{Width of boom (Metres)}} = \text{Water volume (Litres/HA)}$$

Check label

### 6. To calculate the quantity of concentrate required

$$\frac{\text{Water volume (Litres/HA)}}{\text{Product Application Rate (Litres/HA)}} \times \frac{\text{Concentrate per hectare (Litres/HA)}}{\text{Concentrate per full tank (Litres)}} = \text{Tanks per hectare}$$

$$\text{Tanks per hectare} \times \text{Area to be treated (Sq. metres)} \div 10000 = \text{Tanks required}$$

$$\text{Tanks required} \times \frac{\text{Concentrate per full tank (Litres)}}{\text{Tank capacity (Litres)}} = \text{Total concentrate required (Litres)}$$

### 7. To mix a part load

$$\frac{\text{Amount of water required (Litres)}}{\text{Tank capacity (Litres)}} \times \text{Concentrate per full tank (Litres/ML)} = \text{Concentrate for part load (Litres/ML)}$$

## Selective weedkillers:

# Finding the problem, and solving it

by Technical Consultant JON ALLBUTT

The drought of last summer has given greenkeepers many problems to solve this year. On some soils the traditional balance of grass against weed has changed and suddenly, as if from nowhere, there are large patches of Yarrow; Clover; Parsley Piert; Woodrush and others in evidence. The problem is how to tackle these weeds before they get a grip, and even worse, flower and spread seed all over the place.

The Amenity Code of Practice requires that the all important decisions about what to use and how to use it be taken well in advance of the actual spraying day so that the job can be properly planned: the days of last-minute decisions on spraying are over! The reasons for the poor performance of weed-killers is usually due to bad timing; incorrect calibration; incorrect selection of the spray volume (wrong nozzles!) and selecting the wrong product. Following the guidance in the Code ensures that the job of spraying is effective and accurate and therefore cost effective.

### IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM:

The task begins with identifying the problem. It is not enough to know the names of the weeds found; equally important is establishing the visible density of one weed in relation to the other e.g. 25% Yarrow, 40% Woodrush etc. This helps with deciding on the product to use and whether there is need for one or two applications. Remember the iceberg principle with creeping weeds in turf; for what you see may be as little as one third of what is threaded amongst the grasses. This will be important when deciding on spray volume and spray quality. Weeds that have small leaf areas and a creeping habit make difficult targets. A fine spray quality and a water volume at the lower end of the label directions will not give the penetration to make contact with the target: this results in poor control. Increasing the water volume and choosing a medium spray quality can make the difference between success and failure. The keeping of records is vital here, not just a record of what was decided but a note made three weeks ago or so after spraying of the result.

It would be nice to think that all Clubs now have staff trained according to the Regulations, who are able to make these decisions, but unfortunately many are still clinging to the myth of the 'grandfather clause'!

### CHOOSING THE PRODUCT:

An important part of the decision making involves reading all about products that are available to do the job. All manufacturers produce excellent technical leaflets so there is no need to have the actual product sitting on the desk. When picking a product to control more difficult weeds it is a fact that two applications are often essential for effective control. Making this decision may require that the manufacturer is consulted further about rates and timing.

The confusion over the permitted uses of Ioxynil has resulted in many Clubs deciding to stop using this chemical. Ioxynil when combined with others such as Mecoprop and Dicamba is still the best to use against the finer leaved weeds. Ioxynil is approved for use in vehicle mounted boom sprayers and there are no proposals to further restrict its approvals. The choice of water or oil based formulations is also important - the advantages of using a shower-proof weed-killer are obvious - but improved droplet retention and more efficient diffusion into the leaf of the target weed are factors that can make all the difference.

New developments in formulations are slow to reach the amenity turf sector. There are CDA selective weed-killers available and they can be very efficient, however they require skillful use and may not give the essential penetration into the dense canopy of fine turf to give a good leaf coverage. The introduction of Isoxaben as Knotout is a very interesting development; the use of a residual weed-killer to take out the germinating weed seedlings at the critical stage of early grass growth on renovated or re-seeded areas will give a great advantage to rapid establishment of a new sward. Hopefully this is the first of a new range of novel formulations to come in the future. An important part of

# The trick is to get the timing right

product selection is to be sure that a risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with the COSHH regulations (see article: April Greenkeeper International).

## TIMING:

There are two factors to consider in the timing of applications.

(1) As a general rule it is vital to treat weeds when they are growing strongly and making new leaf. In this condition they are much more receptive to weed-killer and a more complete 'kill' can be expected. The spring is usually regarded as the ideal time, however there are other occasions when weeds are in a more vulnerable state. Conditions in the autumn are often more suitable and some very good results have been obtained during a late flush of growth. Some weeds are almost impossible to kill once they commence flowering: Speedwell, Woodrush, Yarrow and many others become tough and leathery, making spraying a waste of time and money.

(2) The effective control of a bad weed problem can leave the site with large bare patches just when it is required to be at its best! Think a month or so ahead and consider whether the results of a good 'kill' might just be an embarrassment? There are times when the greenkeeper is grateful for anything green! Following a major weed control operation with top dressing or over-seeding may also be an important factor to consider in the seasonal programme. There will be a rush by opportunist weeds to occupy those bare spaces and if you are unlucky it is even possible to remove a large patch of clover and see it replaced by *Poa annua*! It may be more suitable to wait until autumn before spraying and follow this with renovation and seeding or even turfing in severe cases. Remember that the choice of product may restrict the period between spraying and re-seeding. When all else fails; read the label!

## GETTING IT RIGHT!

It must be accepted that all sprayers are inclined to have minor leaks. In accepting this fact the wise operator will have a supply of spare 'O' rings; washers; check valves etc. ready to use when setting up. Don't expect to be able to use the sprayer within minutes of fitting it to the machine, plan ahead and give it a thorough check including a pressure

test to show up those inevitable problems.

Some greenkeepers are still adding wetters to weed-killer in the mistaken belief that it will enhance the effectiveness of the product. In fact it can have the opposite effect: entirely wasting the product. If you are unlucky it might also cause severe scorch as the droplets cling stubbornly to the blades of grass. Occasionally a label will recommend the addition of an adjuvant to control particular weeds and in this case there should be no problem, providing the exact amount is mixed – you know – use a measuring jug! The use of unauthorised adjuvants and tank mixes is also a breach of the Regulations.

All the above decision making is of course a waste of time if the sprayer is not calibrated to accurately apply the product. Fitting the nozzles, deciding on speed and pressure and then carrying out a flow test to determine the actual output of the sprayer is the first part of calibration. The second part is to calculate the number of tanks (including part tanks) to do the job; the exact amount of product that is to be added to the spray tank (including the part tank) and finally how much product is needed to do the job.

There are many ways to do this, but what is certain is that the Code of Practice requires it to be done as part of the whole decision making process, well before the job is to be done. This allows for adjustments and changes of nozzle to ensure that the job will be done with due regard for the safety of all concerned.

We have developed a calibration sheet that is short on text and has the space to calculate and record all the information needed to accurately calibrate the sprayer. It is printed here for the guidance of those who may be confused and need a simple procedure to follow. If it confuses you even more, let me know!

There is no substitute for training to make us competent in the eyes of the Law. The greenkeepers who return to work after attending our training courses on the use of pesticides and checked their figures for products; spray quality; and pressures previously used – not to mention the general condition of their sprayers – were suitable embarrassed. The sprayer is also an important tool in the accurate application of soil conditioners, liquid iron and fertilisers. Calibration is just as important here to avoid the embarrassment of striped fairways. It's never too late to learn the right way to do the job!

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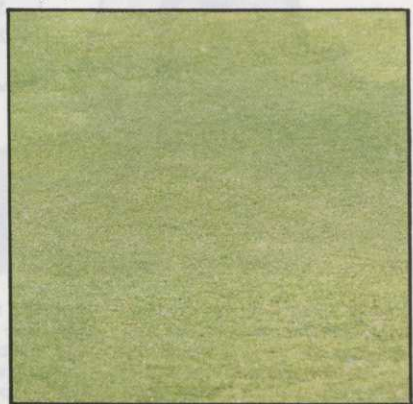
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# Letters

## To The Editor

Please let me give you my view on a recent visit to the GCSAA Show in Las Vegas. There will be some greenkeepers who may want to skip this piece – that is called freedom of choice – but I would like to emphasise the importance of BIGGA's role in the States. Many will be unaware that the Association had a stand at the exhibition and I witnessed the determined marketing of our Association – I even had a go myself and let me tell you it's not easy.

For example, whilst manning the stand, interested parties would approach, pick up Greenkeeper International and casually browse through it. Then the voice of BIGGA would speak: 'having a good time, Sir?, please feel free to take a complimentary magazine; what line of business are you in?; have you ever thought of advertising in the British market? – you have – well we have a special package for overseas clients...'

This would continue all week long and I must admit that whilst on the stand I was certainly glad that Neil and Debbie were there to back me up.

BIGGA took over 2000 copies of Greenkeeper International with them and I can honestly say not one was wasted – they went like hot cakes. Americans, Canadians, Australians and many more all wanted to know about British greenkeeping and there was nowhere better to look than in our magazine. And of course from all this our organisation can only benefit.

I certainly enjoyed my trip to the States and would encourage anyone to enter for Premier Greenkeeper and be given the chance to visit our counterparts in America.

During my trip I had the pleasure of meeting the Master Groundsman, Alan Lewis, which brings me to raise another point. Some will have read recent issues of Horticultural Weekly or The Groundsman in which Alan Lewis expresses his opinion that all sporting bodies should come together, i.e. The IOG and BIGGA should be known as The Association of Turf Culture or something similar. However, in my opinion IOG and BIGGA should remain as two separate organisations. The Institute of Groundsmanship, of which I am a member, has been established since 1924. Most of its members are a highly motivated group of professionals – their tasks covering a wide range of skills. BIGGA has been established since 1987 and is growing from strength to strength. It has experienced small hitches like any other new organisation, but look what it has done for greenkeeping.

We use separate skills, we need separate organisations. It would be interesting to hear other views on this matter.

**Anthony Davies – Premier Greenkeeper**

## To The Editor

My first assistant and I attended the recent Kent Section BIGGA seminar, thoroughly enjoyed our day, and look forward to more of its kind. I would like to reiterate the comments of Danny Godfrey concerning Poa annua and the unfortunate greenkeeper who had 95% of dreaded Poa annua on his greens, but was keeping the clients happy.

I have been attending meetings of this nature over the past 32 years and there have not been many times when this ugly beast has not reared its head (I don't mean Danny!) and must add that we do not seem to be making any progress in getting shot of it! Danny might have been talking about our greens.

As far as I am concerned, I am stuck with what I have and I'm surely not alone, for most greenkeepers in this country are in the same boat. Apart from the limited budgets we must work to, there is also the common problem of traffic. When can we do all the necessary basic work to alleviate the modern problems?

Our greens are in the 95% 'garbage' category, but we know what we have and treat them accordingly, for with modern machinery it is possible to keep the customers happy. We do not use temporary greens and members play in frost and wet throughout the winter. We are told by both pro and amateur that our greens are the best around.

I do feel we tend to 'make mountains out of molehills' on this subject and must declare that the greens we have satisfy me.

**Mike Travers – Lamberhurst GC**

■ Mike Travers served an apprenticeship as a greenkeeper in Scotland for six years before becoming a professional golfer 22 years ago. His multi-role at Lamberhurst is that of PGA Professional, Course Manager and Chairman of Green.

## To The Education Officer

Having recently completed a two year YTS Scheme in Greenkeeping, based at Barony Agricultural College and seconded to Castle Douglas Golf Club, I hope to make greenkeeping my career and write to seek your help.

I am nineteen, single and have a clean driving licence. I was educated to 'O' level standard at Castle Douglas High School and my hobby is golf, with a handicap of 4 at Castle Douglas GC.

I have sought employment at numerous Clubs in this region but have not been successful, thus I am prepared to consider employment within greenkeeping anywhere in the country.

**Stuart Brydson**

■ Stuart, who passed out from Barony with flying colours and has excellent work experience and college references, may be an innocent victim of the YTS two year system. Can any Club help? – David Golding

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