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BOOK REVIEWS

Four of our top young greenkeepers look at four new books to come to the UK from the USA. These books are now available from BIGGA headquarters.

HANDBOOK OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR TURF AND ORNAMENTALS

Edited by Anne Leslie

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £61.50

Price to BIGGA members: £46.00

This book sets out to address the problems faced by turf managers in the current "environmentally friendly" trends of today. It goes into great detail about the need for better cultural controls for turf pests and diseases found on golf courses.

Since the banning of effective and cheap(!) pesticides such as Chlordane, I for one have had a greater problem in controlling casting worms, for example.

Greenkeepers over recent years (since perhaps the advent of

colour TVs) have had ever increasing pressure to present their course to even higher standards for an ever longer "playing season". This has led head greenkeepers being pressurised into using quick fixes to sustain their turf and perhaps using chemicals to achieve this end. Now with environmentalists looking for ways to reduce the amount of chemicals used, there is a distinct need to use an "integrated pest management" technique to curb the use of synthetic fertilisers, chemicals and water, and to use Nature's own remedies.

This 660-page book, although based on the USA's environment and its pests and diseases, does however cover pests and diseases found on this side of the pond. It is therefore essential reading for all turf managers and students coming into this profession.

The information in this book is realistic enough to recognise that the use of chemicals cannot be ruled out entirely, but with careful planning and husbandry we can

greatly reduce their usage.

The book also covers the life cycle of many of the pests and diseases found in turf and trees and therefore gives a better insight into how we can control these problems.

Mark Webb, head greenkeeper at Alresford GC, Hampshire

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION HANDBOOK

Written by Donald Harker,

Sherri Evans, Mare Evans and Kay Harker

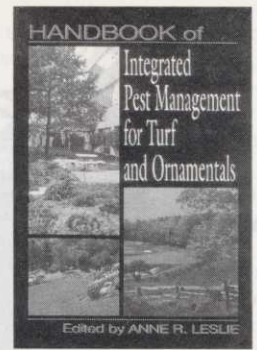
Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £65

Price to BIGGA members: £48.50

This is an in-depth and informative reference book to meet the needs of not only those working on existing landscapes but also those who are embarking on a new project.

The book is well set out into specific chapters, including design methods, restoration/ maintenance of existing naturalised areas, the creation of new areas and an extremely detailed plant list,



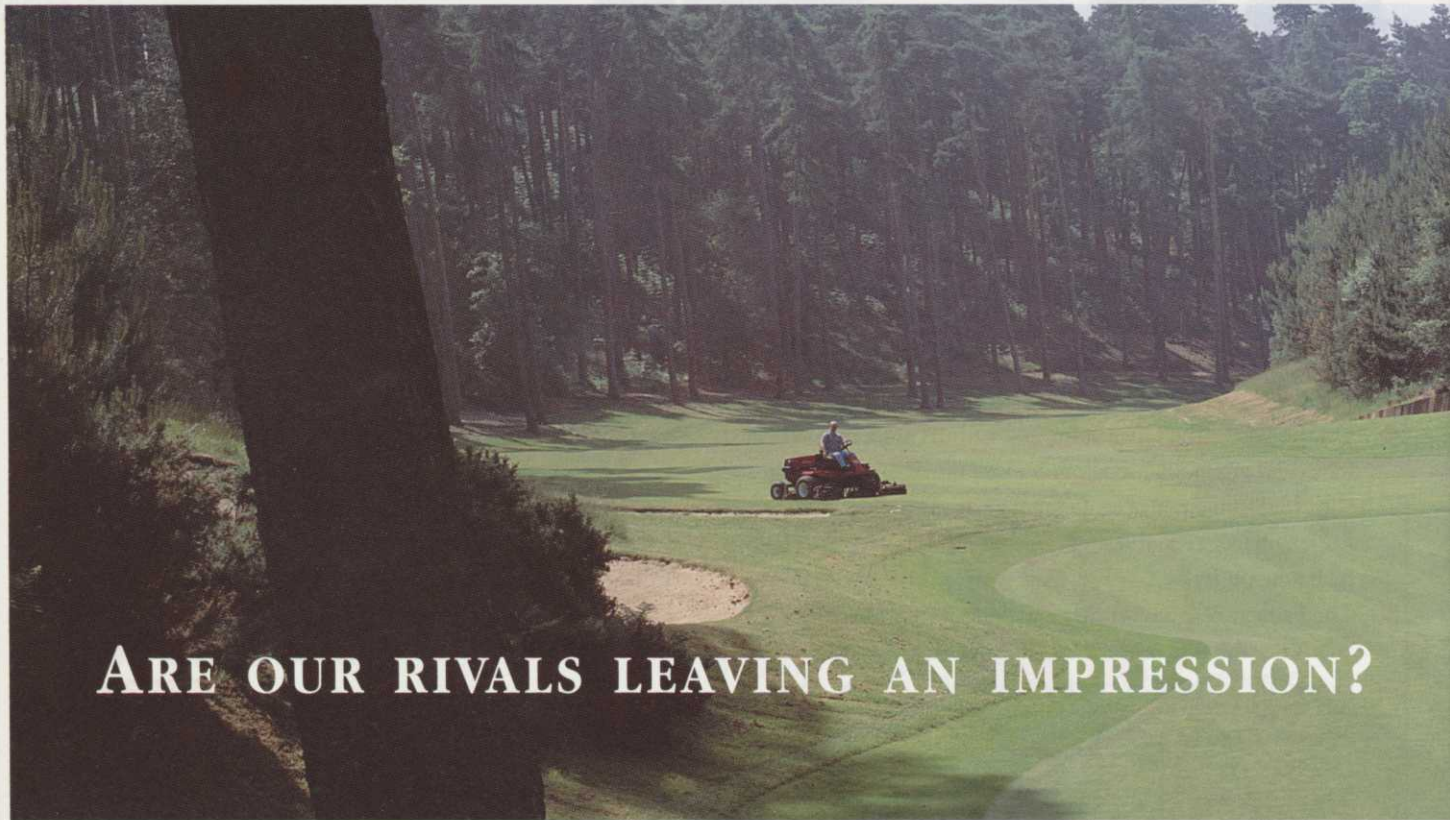
which is set out in table form somewhat similar to the STRI seed booklet.

The reader is able to select a chapter within the book that is applicable to their own specific situation or use the complete book with reference to a complete project.

The book also encourages the co-operation of adjoining land owners along with the relative authorities to work together in preparing an overall improvement plan for a given region, rather than just a small plot of land within that region.

Although this would take a great deal of time and effort from all concerned, the information within the handbook covers the formulation of a plan to the completed project.

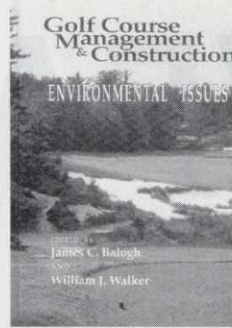
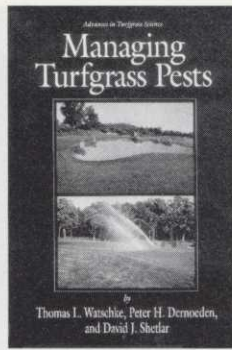
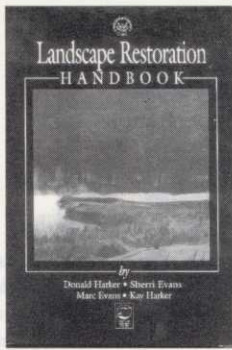
The book has been written for the USA but the principles within



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the book are relevant to the UK and with thorough reading all the natural regions of the UK can be found.

In conclusion, I think that the Landscape Restoration Handbook could be a valuable source of reference not only to greenkeepers and their committees but to anybody with an interest in enhancing the environment around them.

Paul Pearse, course manager at Stockport GC, Cheshire

MANAGING TURFGRASS PESTS

Written by Thomas LW Satschke, Peter H Dernoeden, David J Shetlar

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £57.50

Price to BIGGA members: £42.50

When I read the book, I thought that whilst the first section was very interesting it was of limited

value to a greenkeeper managing a course in this country. This was due mainly to the majority of grass and weed species not being common to the UK.

I found the section on Turfgrass Diseases (Section 2) to be of much more interest, especially the cultural practices and the environmental and biological control methods. This is important to me especially as I manage a site of Special Scientific Interest where my dependence upon pesticides and herbicides is strictly limited. As a result of all the recent concern about the environment and "what we are doing to it", it seems that more and more course managers/greenkeepers will need to revert back to cultural practices as opposed to opening a bottle.

When I got to Section 3 which deals with Insects and Mites, I began to realise just how lucky we

are in the UK as we only have to worry about a small proportion of pests that other countries are smitten with. However, this section does cover life cycles and habits that can assist us in our control efforts.

Overall I felt that the book was a very good reference but the price of £57.50 (£42.50 for BIGGA members) would, I feel, be better spent on literature that concentrates on situations more relevant to greenkeeping in the UK. This book is superb for anyone wishing to move to the USA or attain a greater understanding of what our counterparts across the ocean have to contend with.

Stefan Antolik, head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach Golf Club, East Sussex

GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Edited by James C Balogh and William J Walker

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £57.00

Price to BIGGA members: £42.50

This 950-page book has been edited by two American researchers, James C Balogh, a senior research soil scientist, and William J Walker, a senior inorganic geochemist, and includes the work of more than a dozen researchers.

Nearly half the pages comprise references and tables on topics such as aquatic and terrestrial toxicity with the information being largely irrelevant to the UK.

As a keen collector of books on turf management and greenkeeping, this is one which I would avoid. For some people in the industry it may be suitable as the ultimate reference work, but it will not find a place on the desk of a practical greenkeeper.

Richard Barker, course manager at Kirby Muxloe GC, Leicestershire



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FOR A TOP PERFORMANCE, USE THE TOP PERFORMER. ROVRAL GREEN.

Richard Fry, a consultant to a number of companies and organisations within the industry, looks at the benefits of using a spray pattern indicator.

With today's increased emphasis on environmental regulations, personal responsibility and budgetary constraints, the need to improve the quality and consistency of spray applications is more important than ever before.

Throughout the last five years, under the umbrella of COSHH, a succession of much needed legislative requirements affecting the purchase, transportation, storage, application and disposal of pesticides and associated chemical products have been implemented by golf club management committees. Their purpose has been to help make the golf course a much safer place for both players and employees, and the general public at large. Much has been



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achieved in controlling the misuse of pesticides and significant steps have been taken in the fostering of a more responsible attitude to the wider environmental

needs of the course itself.

In addition, major advances have been made in chemical application technology involving such bodies as the International

Standards Organisation (ISO) and the Committee for European Standardisation (CEN). Computerised controls and safety features on modern spraying



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machine are now the norm not the exception.

Yet, despite all the legislative controls designed to protect and preserve and the technology introductions that have advanced and improved sprayer safety and application technique greenkeepers, in the final analysis, still have to rely on sight and 'experience' when judging the accuracy and direction of the spray when applied to the target surface.

Estimating accurately the correct application of chemical solutions comprising of up to 95% water is very difficult as the spray becomes virtually invisible when applied to turf. This invisibility makes it impossible for the operator to follow the spray line accurately on the return pass. It is also impossible to recognise missed areas when spot-treating with a knapsack or hand lance.

Field research surveys have shown that, on average, spray operators using boom sprayers commonly overlap their spray applications 20% more than is



necessary to obtain the desired result. This is not only a wasteful use of chemicals and a potentially damaging practice on turf, it is

also an unnecessary contamination of the soil and the local environment. In the case of knapsack applications the overlap is consid-

Total weed control is more accurate

erably higher as it is common practice to see operators 'sweep' the same area a second or third time resulting in double dosing to factors of 200%-300%, and more! In the past, greenkeepers have relied on a range of dubious, impractical and labour intensive practices designed to minimise spray overlap and achieve a level of acceptable spray accuracy.

The drawing of lengths of chain across the grass, attached to the ends of the spray booms, was one method used to indicate the margins of the spray swath. Better than nothing it may have been but any observer watching the chains snaking across a fairway, constantly being knocked off line by every hump and hollow, soon realised that the chain markings did not reflect the true spray margin and if followed encouraged mis-application. The practice was also a potentially hazardous operation in terms of possible damage to machines and equipment and is not a practice anyone would recommend when spraying greens!

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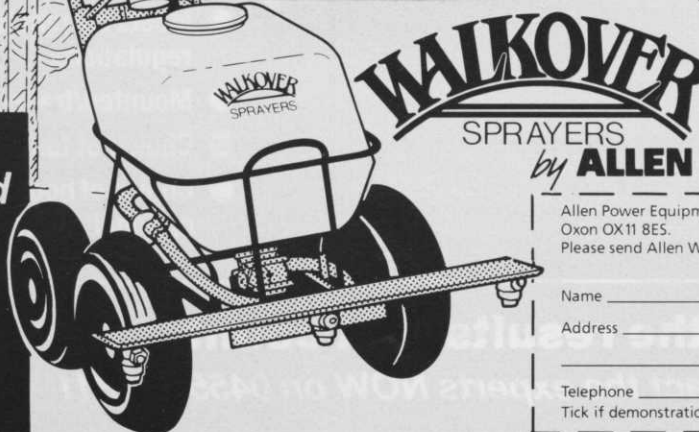
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Greens, tees and fairways: cost savings obtained across a range of commonly used pesticides

Product	Rovral Green	Rimidin	Daconil Turf	Super Verdone	Clovotox	Supertox 30	Twister Flow	Castaway Plus	Crossfire	Super Mosstox
Use	Fungicide Control			Selective Weed Control			Worm Control		Insecticide	Mosskiller
Rates of use	2ltr	1ltr	3ltr	10ltr	11ltr	11ltr	16.5ltr	10ltr	3ltr	50ltr
Cost of product	£57.40	£78.00	£52.22	£59.60	£54.34	£53.75	£214.00	£194.64	£74.80	£562.00
Extra (A) cost of 20% overlap	£11.48	£15.60	£10.44	£11.92	£10.87	£10.75	£42.78	£38.93	£14.96	£112.40
Total spray solution	50ltr	50ltr	50ltr	200ltr	100ltr	100ltr	1000ltr	500ltr	200ltr	600ltr
Rate of Blazon	124ml	124ml	124ml	500ml	250ml	250ml	2.5ltr	1.25ltr	500ml	1.5ltr
Cost of (B) Blazon	£1.66	£1.66	£1.66	£6.62	£3.31	£3.31	£33.12	£16.60	£6.62	£19.87
Savings on (C) chemical costs A-B=C	£9.82	£13.94	£8.78	£5.30	£7.56	£7.44	£9.65	£22.33	£8.34	£92.53

NOTE: in the case of Rovral, Rimidin and Daconil savings have been made over an area of 1,000 sq.m. (1,200 sq.yd). For all other products the savings are over 10,000 sq.m. (12,000 sq.yd). In every example, across a range of commonly used pesticides, major savings have been achieved by adding a spray pattern indicator, in this case Blazon, to the spray solution. By reducing unnecessary and wasteful spray overlap application is more accurate, effective and environmentally responsible.

Another highly inaccurate method of spray pattern marking, still widely used today, is for an assistant member of the green-keeping staff to follow the spraying machine around and position himself, in sight of the operator holding up a cane to mark the margin of the spray swath. Not only does this practice tie up a valuable labour resource that could be better utilised in more productive areas but also exposes the person to unnecessary risk of spray contamination. At the very least this person, to ensure his personal protection and comply with current Health and Safety legislation, must be fully kitted out with all the protective clothing as that required to be worn by the spray operator.

A further method of marking of the spray swath, widely used in agriculture, is the foam bout marker or 'blob' marker. A specialist piece of equipment is mounted on the spraying machine and when filled with a foam making mixture dribbles out, at intervals, 'blobs' of foam which mark the edges of the boom. Though clever in its conception, this method is more suited to the extensive fields of agriculture rather than recreational turf. Golfers do not take kindly to seeing their fairways festooned with dribbles of foam everywhere and the method is completely impractical for obvious reasons on greens. An additional constraint to using this machinery is cost. A typical price paid for a foam bout marker would be £650. Added to this price is the cost of the foam making chemical, set-up and clean down time of the equipment and its on-going maintenance. Even if a case could be made that the 'blob' method provided the operator, on wide open fairways at least, with some guidance on spray bout width, it does not identify any skips or misses due to uneven ground or reveal problems due to faulty spray nozzles.

It may have been argued in times past that the chain, cane or 'blob' method of spray identification was better than nothing. However, none of these alternatives have widespread appeal and each have their detractors who see them as flawed.

An alternative to the methods previously described is the use of a spray pattern indicator which

when added to the spray solution and applied to the turf can be easily seen by the spray operator. This method has the attraction of being simple, highly effective, provides no risk to either the operator or the environment, requires no capital investment and in the majority of instances will pay for itself in the savings made on reducing the amount of chemical applied.

Major formulation advances have been made in colourant technology since the early 1980s when greenkeepers, fed up with the impractical and uneconomical alternatives of spray swath marking, were obtaining industrial dye products as spray indicators. Unfortunately, all of these dyes were based on formulations used in the industrial textile process and were found to be totally unsuitable as they caused not only long-term staining of golf shoes, balls, adjacent walkways, fencing and stone work but also the equipment and the operators themselves. Similar formulations are still being sold today.

It was around this time that Milliken Chemical, a USA research based company, identified the problems associated with the industrial dye products and, through the technology at their disposal, formulated 'Blazon', a speciality, water soluble, organic polymeric colourant. 'Blazon', now one of several spray pattern indicators on the market, is not a dye, does not stain and is easily washed from hands and clothing if accidental contact is made with the concentrate. When added to

the spray solution a temporary dark green colour of the turf is produced, allowing operators to easily see where they have - or have not - sprayed. The colour disappears completely and naturally following rain, dew, irriga-

tion - or even sunlight alone.

Modern spray pattern indicators can simply be added to the spray solution directly as a liquid, with the advantage that the operator can select the dilution rate best suited to the conditions and

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his personal colour preference or, as a liquid in pre-measured water soluble sachets. By monitoring the visual pattern made by the spray indicator on the turf the operator can ensure that problems of missed areas, repeat spraying, turf damage and double dosing due to overlap are eliminated. In addition the operator will be able to detect immediately any problems such as worn, faulty or clogged nozzles. By eliminating spray overlap alone the cost of the spray indicator is offset by the amount of chemical saved (see table on Page 47).

From an environmental point of view, the use of a spray pattern indicator is an invaluable aid in eliminating the wasteful use of pesticides and preventing excessive build-up of undesirable chemicals in the soil. For instance, a spray pattern indicator is an ideal aid to spot treating areas that would normally require an overall spray as the operator can selectively treat only those areas in need of treatment,



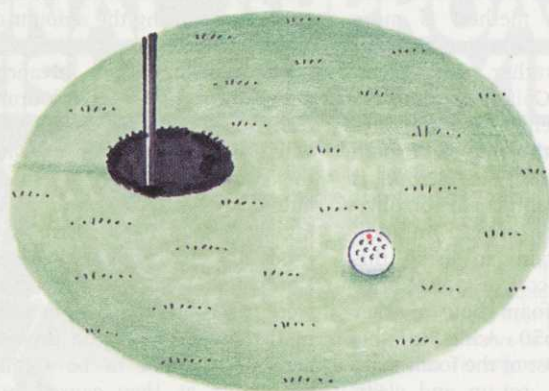
one of the best ways to reduce the amount of chemical applied.

In addition, these products can assist with cleaning out spray equipment after use because when the colour has disappeared

from the water pumped through after spraying, the operator can be confident that the equipment has been completely flushed through the system.

Spray pattern indicators are

also ideal training aids for greenkeepers taking their Spray Operators Training examination and should be regarded as standard practice for all spray applications on turf.



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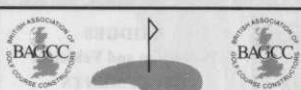
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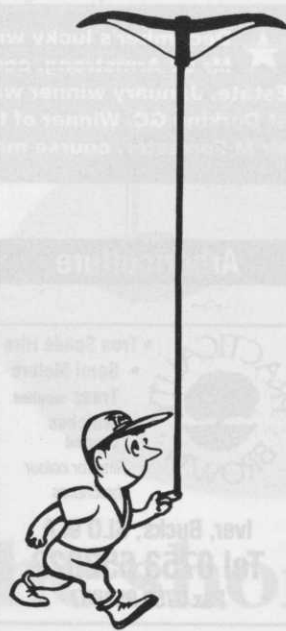
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