

Small biological wastewater treatment units have been available in the United States for several years now but have only been available in the UK for the last two years. The size of the unit you would require depends on the amount of equipment you wash off, and the amount of pesticide rinsate that requires treatment. The two types that are available are the closed loop system that treats, re-circulates and re-uses water, and the discharge system which discharges to the foul water sewer system after a once through treatment. The most environmental friendly system is the closed loop system that takes wastewater, cleans it, and continually re-uses it, avoiding any risk of groundwater contamination. The closed loop system is the type the Environment Agency would prefer us to use, as there is a saving of up to 90% in the wash-water requirement.

Biological Wastewater Treatment Systems are aerobic bio-digesters, which incorporate the following simple process that enhances the ability of naturally occurring bacteria to break down and eliminate waste:

Screening: Wash water enters the Wastewater Treatment Unit via a sump; this water is then pumped up through a stone separator and grass clipping/sand strainer that prevents any large particles from entering the Unit. The screened effluent then enters a settlement chamber thus allowing finer particles to settle out. Further sumps can be added in chemical mixing areas, and refuelling points, and the outlet for these is directed straight into the biological treatment area, but at a slow rate thus not overburdening the demand on the microbes.

Aeration: The displaced liquid travels into the aeration chamber which contains a large concentration of active fixed-film aerobic bacteria that consume the organic waste material in the wastewater. Air is provided to the chamber by an air blower system and is used to ensure a constant flow of water to pass over a honeycomb material that supports the aerobic bacteria. The fixed film bacteria digest the organic contaminants fuels, oils, and pesticides, and the resulting waste is now carbon dioxide, water, and harmless detritus, which fall to the bottom of the tank where you find anaerobic bacteria that break down the nitrate.

Clarification: The displaced liquid travels into the clarification chamber where the fluid is kept as still as possible, allowing the sludge to flocculate and settle to the bottom. This settling process separates the sludge from the clear liquid, allowing clear water free of waste to escape out of the chamber to a foul water sewer (or on a closed loop system, recycled through a pressure system and discharged via wash-off hoses).

Disinfection: Some units are available where the effluent is disinfected with ozone, a very strong antiseptic, prior to final discharge.

The Closed Loop: The treated water is now ready for re-use and is pressurised ready to deliver wash water through hose points. The clarified water is then filtered and made available for continual re-use via the wash-off hoses, which provide an excellent wash-off facility delivering 70–250 Litres min⁻¹ (15–50 gpm) at a pressure of 3.3 bar (50 psi).

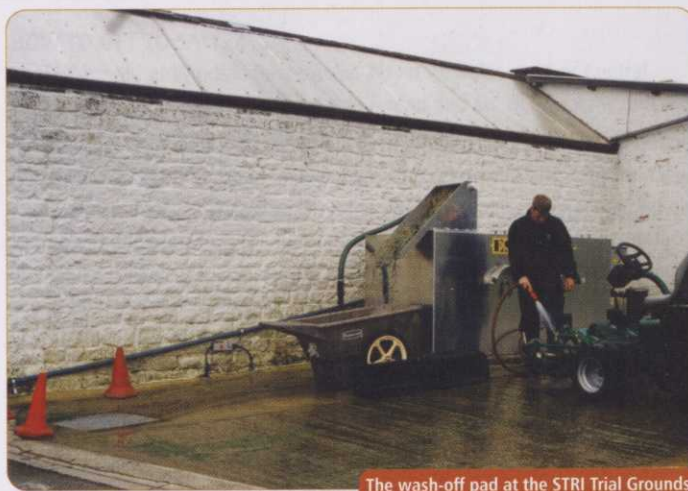
One of the first closed loop biological wastewater units from ESD Waste2Water to be installed in the UK, was at the STRI Trial Grounds for us to evaluate and demonstrate. It is now two and a half years since the unit was installed, and during that time we have found it to be very reliable. The system rapidly digests fuels and lubricants that enter the system through the normal daily washing of equipment, and totally digested an accidental 1-litre hydraulic oil spillage within two days. All the equipment used on the Trial Grounds is washed off on the wash-pad, including tractors, mowers, fertiliser distributors, and spraying equipment. Microbes are added to the unit at intervals between seven to ten days so that we have highly efficient bacteria at all times.

Spraying equipment is always rinsed out prior to cleaning with the washings sprayed onto areas adjacent to the treated areas, thus only traces of pesticides are added to the recycling unit during wash off. This presents no problem to the microbes. The hardest part was believing in what you were doing, as after many years of very careful spraying of several washings per spraying session, to ensure that the containers were thoroughly cleaned in an environmentally safe way, we now washed it down a drain albeit into a water recycle plant. The time saving using this

new wash-off method could be significant for many clubs in addition to following Health & Safety best practise.

The latest addition to these closed loop biological treatment plants units are specialist chemical sprayer wash off pads. They are basically a large grid covered collection tank area on to which you drive your tractor and sprayer onto, designed for the collection of any spillages whilst chemical mixing takes place, as well as a designated chemical wash off pad. The contents are metered overnight into the bio-digester at a trickle rate so the microbes rapidly digest the chemical without being harmed, thus not turning the whole unit into a possible pesticide wash for your maintenance equipment.

The unit installed on the Trial Grounds was one of the early designs,



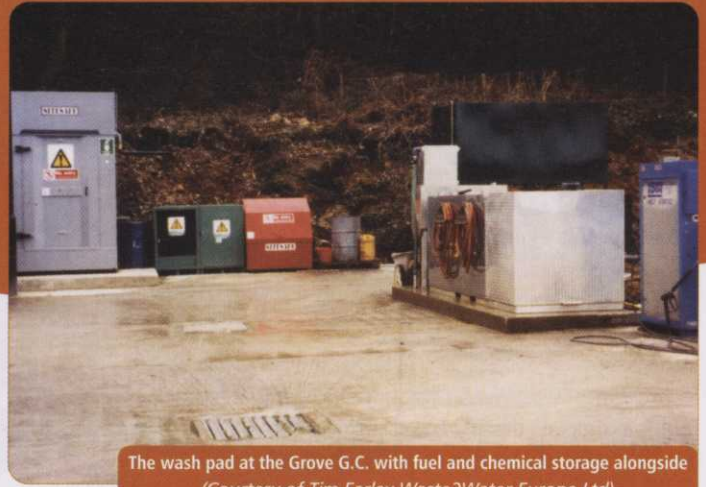
The wash-off pad at the STRI Trial Grounds

and consequently later models have been much improved to bring them into line with EEC regulations. Since installation ours has been updated to the latest electrical specifications, including the introduction of high-level water top-up inlet (as the original breached European water regulations, which if used could have contaminated the water supply). Ball valves have also been fitted to each of the chamber outlets to enable easy access to draining the system, or recycling chambers as necessary. The latest design incorporates a security cover which I am told gives frost protection, thus allowing the system to be used all year round. A dedicated grass separator and dirt settlement tank has also been added as a first sediment chamber, which improves water quality and allows the sediment to be dropped directly into a wheelbarrow placed underneath. Sediment from the different chambers can be used in compost production as it is rich in microbial matter and free from harmful contaminants (providing the unit has been left to cycle for a couple of days prior to being emptied, and cleaned out).

During the winter months we have thoroughly cleaned the system by emptying the water and removing the polypropylene medium. This allowed us to shovel about 100 mm depth of sludge from the base of the chambers, and check the aeration parts for damage. Some of these were replaced due to cracks appearing in the rubber covers, and I would recommend these be checked as part of an annual maintenance programme. The sludge was used after testing for harmful contaminants, in our leaf mould heap to speed up the breakdown of the leaves. The polypropylene filtration medium was reinstalled and the tanks filled with water from the irrigation system borehole, reducing any effects of chlorine and chloramines, which could impact any microbes added within the first 48-hour period. A double dose of microbes were then added as you would when first starting the unit, and the air supply turned on to give a light aeration to the water.

You may remember a previous article in Greenkeeper International, where the forethought of one greenkeeper in the positioning of chemical and fuel storage adjacent to his newly acquired water recycling plant saved an environmental catastrophe. Thieves tried to steal his diesel, but

Where Does the Wash-Water Go?



The wash pad at the Grove G.C. with fuel and chemical storage alongside
(Courtesy of Tim Earley Waste2Water Europe Ltd)

ended up spewing the contents over the top of the fuel tank bund onto his wash-off pad. The microbes consumed several hundred litres of diesel and no harm was done. With environmental risk assessments for groundwater contamination, thought should be given to all areas of possible environmental catastrophe, and whether it be accident or malicious act you could still face court action against you, as taking no action will land you in deeper trouble. At the Grove GC fuels, oils, and chemicals are all located adjacent to the wash-off pad, so any spillages will automatically be collected and biologically treated, thus showing they have assessed the risk and taken all action possible to safeguard the environment.

The Environment Agency has been given powers to intervene ensuring potential pollution incidents are prevented. No longer do they need to find pollution before they act. They are now able to issue enforcement notices requiring any business to install, upgrade, or replace, effluent treatment

plant that has caused pollution incidents in the past or has been a persistent source of pollution. Businesses that breach enforcement notices face fines of up to £20,000 in the Magistrates Court and their directors face up to three months in prison. If an incident is sufficiently serious to prosecute in the Crown Court, businesses face unlimited fines and up to two-year jail sentences for directors. Even if a case is not taken to court, the costs of damage repairs still have to be met by the polluter. For example, restocking of fish can cost many thousands of pounds and you will find that the general policies of many insurance companies' no longer cover the costs of pollution clean up. Sports facilities are not exempt from these new regulations, so if you have not already done so, I would recommend that now is the time to review your current working practises and plan for the future, before the authorities do it for you.

For further information contact the STRI on www.stri.co.uk

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IOG SALTEX

2-4 SEPTEMBER 2003

Windsor Racecourse, Berks

IOG SALTEX, Europe's flagship event for the open space management industry, is being held this year on 2-4 September at Windsor Racecourse, Windsor, Berkshire.

Offering a comprehensive overview of the latest products, technologies and techniques for effective and efficient open space management - as well as a definitive free seminar programme featuring key speakers from the industry - fine turf and sports, turf maintenance equipment, children's play and safety surfacing, commercial vehicles, leisure and facilities management and software as well as security equipment.

A series of round-table 'Groundsman Live' debates is the latest attraction planned for the Show Staged every lunchtime during the three-day event and sponsored by The Groundsman magazine, the Question Time-type discussions will feature a panel of industry experts who as well as voicing their opinions on a different topical issues will also be inviting audience participation.

BIGGA will again be strongly represented and will be happy to meet members and prospective members at their stand - G1.

HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

SALTEX is held at Windsor Racecourse. About 20 miles west of Central London, Windsor is easy to reach by rail, road and air. Heathrow is only a 15 minute drive away; Gatwick and Luton are within an hour's drive.

BY ROAD

From the M25. Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west.

From the M4: Westbound -- leave M4 at junction 6. Eastbound -- leave M4 at junction 8/9. Then follow brown and white signs for Windsor racecourse.

BY RAIL

From London Paddington: Leave the train at Slough and join the local service to Windsor and Eton Central Station. Approximate journey time is 35 minutes.

From London Waterloo: Leave the train at Windsor and Eton Riverside Station. Approximate journey time is 45 minutes.

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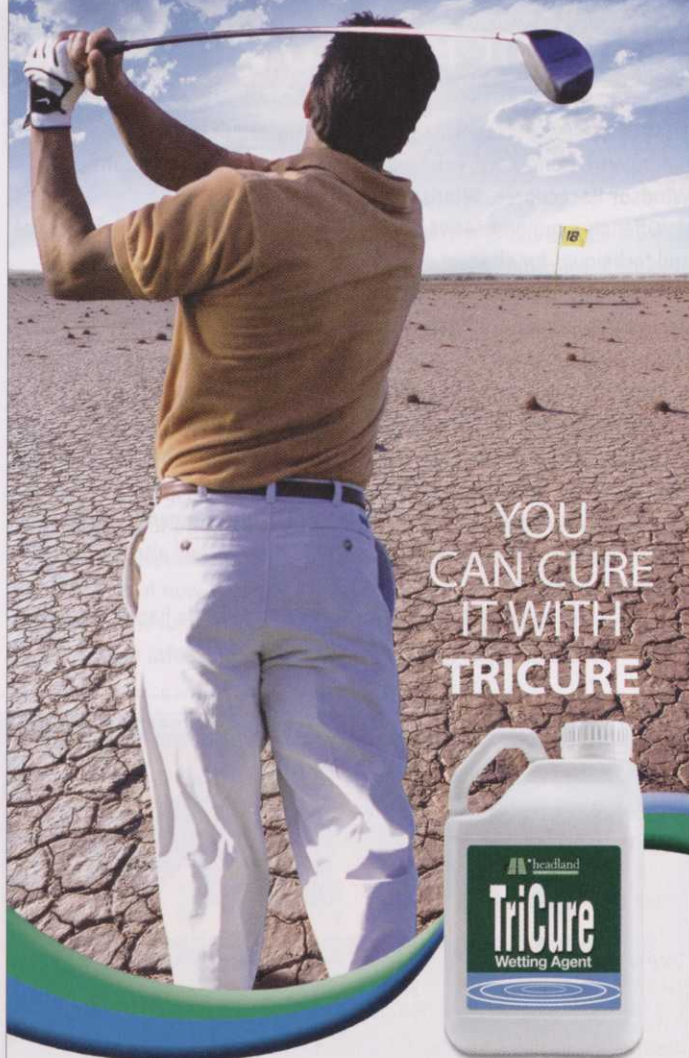
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GOLDEN KEY EXHIBITORS AT SALTEX

Gem Professional Stand D19



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Tel: 01254 356611 **Fax:** 01254 356677
Email: www.gemprofessional.co.uk
Website: www.gemprofessional.co.uk

Hayter Ltd Stand W09



Hayter commercial products are designed and built in the UK for Northern European grass cutting conditions and demanding municipal applications. They are the first choice for discerning users whichever market they operate in.

A comprehensive selection of ride on and tractor drawn equipment will be displayed. The LT322 and LT324 triples and T424 five unit have proved to be market leaders. So have the TM549 and TM749 tractor drawn gang mowers which will cope with the largest areas quickly and efficiently. Also being shown will be the R314 triple deck rotary and FM524 fairway mower. All of these products have easy access for maintenance, so important for commercial and fleet users.

A representative selection from the Hayter pedestrian rotary range, suited for both consumer and commercial markets, will be on display. There is a Hayter pedestrian rotary to suit every application.

Contact: Barbara Garton
Tel: 01279 7234444 **Fax:** 01279 600338
Email: sales@hayter.co.uk
Website: www.hayter.co.uk



JOHN DEERE

John Deere Stand V01

John Deere will be featuring Europe's biggest single brand range of commercial and consumer equipment, including walk behind and ride on cylinder and front rotary mowers, the new 4010 Series compact tractors with their innovative electronic transmissions, the popular and versatile Gator utility vehicles, pedestrian and tractor mounted aerators, and new machines such as the 72in Flex-deck attachment for 1400 and 1500 Series front rotary mowers, and the CP48 core pulveriser. The John Deere golf and turf range has supplied course maintenance equipment for the last three Open golf championships, including this year's tournament at Royal St George's in Kent. The John Deere brand name is backed by industry leading investment in research and development, manufacturing facilities and customer support. In addition, there's a range of flexible finance programmes available from John Deere Credit, including a new budget calculator to help you manage your annual equipment needs more easily and cost effectively.

Contact: David Hart
Tel: 01949 860491 **Fax:** 01949 860490
Website: www.johndeere.co.uk

Scotts UK Stand E01



WEATHER-WISE

Visitors to SALTEX will be able to assess a tool that can make Integrated Turf Management actually work in practice. Most greenkeepers know the ITM theory, but making it happen is another matter. Now Scotts (stand E 01) will launch the answer – the innovative Scotts iTurf system.

iTurf is a technological triumph; a system that will measure everything that can potentially have an effect on turf growth and turf health, and then collate and present the information so that the turf manager can make the right cultural decisions.

The Scotts iTurf comprises a series of stations and sensors, linked to a computer, that constantly monitors air and soil temperature, solar radiation, humidity, wind speed, leaf wetness, soil moisture, rainfall etc right across the site.

Contact: Dave Steward
Tel: 0871 2205353 **Fax:** 01473 830386
Email: prof.sales@scottscs.co.uk
Website: scottspromotional.co.uk

Ransomes Jacobsen Stand V15



Not just green, but seen to be green

Once again a major theme of the Ransomes Jacobsen stand V15 will be that of alternative energy with environmentally sensitive products on display. These will include the Ransomes Highway LPG triple mower for the municipal sector, the Jacobsen E-Walk electric pedestrian greens mowers and the electric version of the new Jacobsen Tournament Cut, the most flexible floating head pedestrian greens mowers available.

Also on display will be the new Ransomes ZT220D, zero turn diesel powered rotary mower and the production version of the super compact, but powerful tractor, the Iseki TXG 23.

Taking centre stage will be the new Ransomes Frontline 960 rotary mower, with a its 60hp diesel providing bags of power for municipal mowing and contracting operations.

Contact: Selina Flynn
Tel: 01473 270000 **Fax:** 01473 276300
Email: enquiries@tip.textron.com
Website: www.ransomesjacobsen.com



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GOLDEN KEY EXHIBITORS AT SALTEX

Toro Commercial Products Stand S31



At its new site – Stand No S31 – Toro is launching the new Groundsmaster 4100-D, which features an out-front three-section cutting deck that makes it the only fully out-front mower in the 11ft rotary market segment.

The deck produces a beautiful aftercut appearance at high work rates on sports grounds and golf course roughs and semi-roughs.

The machine has a powerful 60hp Kubota turbo diesel engine and an overall cutting width of 10ft 4in.

Also being unveiled is the Workman 2100E, an electric version of Toro's popular Workman 2100 petrol utility vehicle. The new model features Toro's unique 'twister' suspension system that provides for unrivalled traction.

Contact: Peter Mansfield
Tel: 01480 226800 Fax: 01480 226801
Email: toro.info@lely.co.uk
Website: www.toro.com

TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited Stand F27



TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited is part of TurfTrax Group Limited, which was founded in 1997 to commercialise research undertaken in conjunction with Cranfield University.

TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited meets the selection criteria stipulated by the Sport England New Opportunities Fund, Playing Fields and Community Green Spaces Programme for appointment as a recognised and approved soils and turfgrass consultant. TurfTrax are also recognised and approved by The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Football Foundation, the Football Association and the England and Wales Cricket Board. We have the expertise necessary in order to achieve the requisite Performance Quality Standards (PQS).

Contact: Colin Hood
Tel: 01234 821750 Fax: 01234 821751
Email: sarah.mason@turftrax.co.uk
Website: www.turftrax.co.uk



SILVER KEY EXHIBITORS AT SALTEX

Bernhard & Co Ltd Stand P36



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WOLF Proline Stand F12



WOLF Proline, a division of Wolf Garden Limited, is Europe's largest provider of specialist sports and fine turf renovation, grass seed mixtures, and controlled release fertilisers. With over 30 years experience in turf grass research as well as the foundation of the unique Proline renovation system and equipment, we undertake renovation works on over 1,000 sports pitches throughout Europe each year. WOLF Proline also supply a range of supporting lawn turf renovation equipment, including rain carts, spreaders and soil samplers.

Our team of specialist representatives look forward to welcoming you on our stand F12 at SALTEX, where you can obtain detailed information and literature on our range of products and services, make an appointment or discuss your future requirements.

Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01495 306600
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Stand: U12

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BLEC

Stand: V50

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the **Green Approach**

Stand: F31

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ALLMAN

Stand: P13



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A Division of WOLF
Garden Limited
Crown Business Park
Tredegar, Gwent NP22 4EF

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Email:
info@wolf-proline.co.uk

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WOLF Proline, a division of Wolf Garden Limited, is Europe's largest provider of specialist controlled release fertilisers. We have over 30 years experience in turf grass research and renovation systems. Our unique range of fertilisers and grass seed mixtures are used in renovation works on over 1,000 sports pitches throughout Europe each year. WOLF Proline also supplies a range of supporting lawn turf renovation equipment, including rain carts, spreaders and soil samplers.



Our team of specialist advisors look forward to welcoming you to stand F12 at SALTEx, where you can obtain detailed information and literature on our range of products and services, or make an appointment or discuss your future requirements.



Stand: F12



British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

BIGGA was formed as a professional organisation in 1987, being an amalgamation of three similar volunteer-led national associations. It has now over 7300 members, organised into five regions and twenty-seven sections.

Its main objectives and activities are:

- Membership
- Recruitment
- Directory
- Exhibitions
- Education
- Training

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Stand: G01

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Caterham, Surrey, England
Tel: 01883 342632

Stand: Q15



Scotts UK

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The Scotts iTurf comprises a series of stations and sensors, linked to a computer, that constantly monitors air and soil temperature, solar radiation, humidity, wind speed, leaf wetness, soil moisture, rainfall etc right across the site.

Stand: E01

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