



# For those Hard to Reach Places - Safety is the Key

Melissa Toombs looks at a range of tools available for trimming hedges and cutting branches from ground level.

Safety is key when using electric or battery charged equipment. Being able to trim back trees and hedges is a necessity but the job can become dangerous when areas are hard to reach, inappropriate equipment is used and/or the operator lacks training. Telescopic handles, cordless models, variable tilt angles and cutter heads, and light weight models, can make all the difference when buying hand tools.

## BRUSHCUTTERS

There are many varieties of brushcutter currently available, here are some points to consider before you buy:

- **Golf course size.** With more to trim, a bigger unit is required and petrol power is preferable to electric - electric models are designed for small greens with minimal work to do. Petrol trimmers around 24.5cc are enough for the average sized garden.
- **Physical fitness.** Brushcutting requires physical effort. If you use a model without a harness, extra strain can be put on your arm, wrist and hand. Buy a product that's as light as possible.
- **Handles.** Lighter models tend to have a single loop handle, while heavier machines have a double or handlebars handle that gives greater control against kickback.

Brushcutters are the ideal complement to power mowers and can be used wherever additional work is required. Handy for adding the finishing touches to your golf course, brushcutters can also be used to mow small patches of grass, quickly. There are two main types of petrol brushcutter:

**Petrol 2 stroke trimmers** - This variety of brushcutter has been around for some time now and is considered reliable and easy to use.

**Petrol 4 stroke trimmers** - 4 stroke power generally comes with lower

revs and is produced in a broader range. 4 strokes are quieter and produce less smoke emissions than the 2 stroke, also, the oil and fuel have separate containers and are mixed within the engine.

Brushcutters with engine sizes over 24.5cc range in price from £130 to £500.

Power tool dealer Echo, recently launched the low-noise brushcutter, SRM-350ESU. Fitted with a 34cm<sup>3</sup> engine, the SRM-350ESU offers reduced pulling power on the starter rope and has no kickback effect in cranking.



With a weight of just 7.6kg, and a vibration figure of just 21.2m/sec<sup>2</sup>, the SRM-350ESU can be operated safely for considerably longer than other brushcutters of this size, and with a fuel tank capacity of 0.84 litres, the unit will run much longer on one filling. Price £389 plus VAT

## For those Hard to Reach Places - Safety is the Key

Garfitts, a UK supplier of golf and turf machinery accessories, feature the CG350HW Honda 4 stroke brushcutter in their 2006 catalogue.



The 35cc CG350HW Honda features a heavy duty gearbox and drive shaft as well as a low vibration engine mount system. Price £265 plus VAT

Many one and two day courses are available at colleges all over Britain, covering the safe operation of the brushcutter in a variety of conditions, from checking the machine, fuelling and starting, examining components, machinery and safety markings and testing the brushcutter; to practical operation.



The 42cc, X-Series 8-42 has a super clean air filter system providing longer air filter life, reduced fuel consumption and increased power

## CHAINSAWS

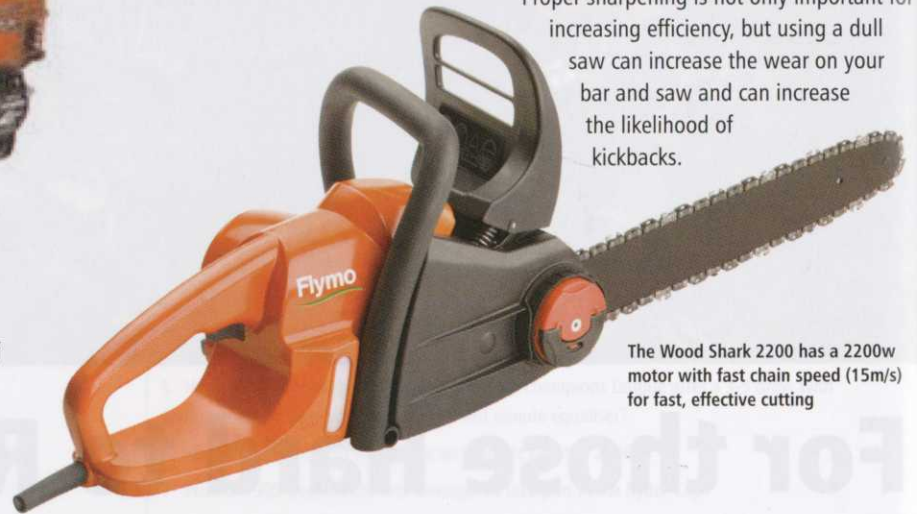
Anyone using a chainsaw at work should have received adequate training in safe use.

Poor operator training and lack of attention can lead to accidents. The right protective clothing must be worn in order to minimise risks.

The key to an effective, efficient chainsaw is a sharp chain. The chain may need sharpening when any of the following start to occur:

- You have to apply pressure on the bar to cut, rather than having the weight of the saw and bar be sufficient.
- The cut is uneven.
- The saw is producing more sawdust than wood chips.

Proper sharpening is not only important for increasing efficiency, but using a dull saw can increase the wear on your bar and saw and can increase the likelihood of kickbacks.



The Wood Shark 2200 has a 2200w motor with fast chain speed (15m/s) for fast, effective cutting

It's important to note that different types and sizes of saw chain need different sizes of files to sharpen.

Prices range from £250 for a 24.5cc chainsaw, to £778 for a 65cc model. New chains vary in price from £15 to £75.

McCulloch are due to launch the X-Series 8-42 chainsaw in January 2007.

Described as a super clean petrol chainsaw with advanced power, an easy start system and ergonomic design, the 2.1hp, X-Series 8-42, also has a tool-less chain tensioner allowing the operator to tighten their chain as easily as possible.

Flymo are set to launch the Wood Shark 2200 next spring, a powerful, easy to use electric chainsaw with advanced design for easy handling. This model also offers tool-less chain tensioning and is fitted with a clutch to prevent the motor overloading.

College and online courses in chainsaw training and maintenance are also available.

A pole saw or power pruner are useful if there doesn't happen to be a trained chainsaw operator on site as they offer less risk to the operator and the tree.

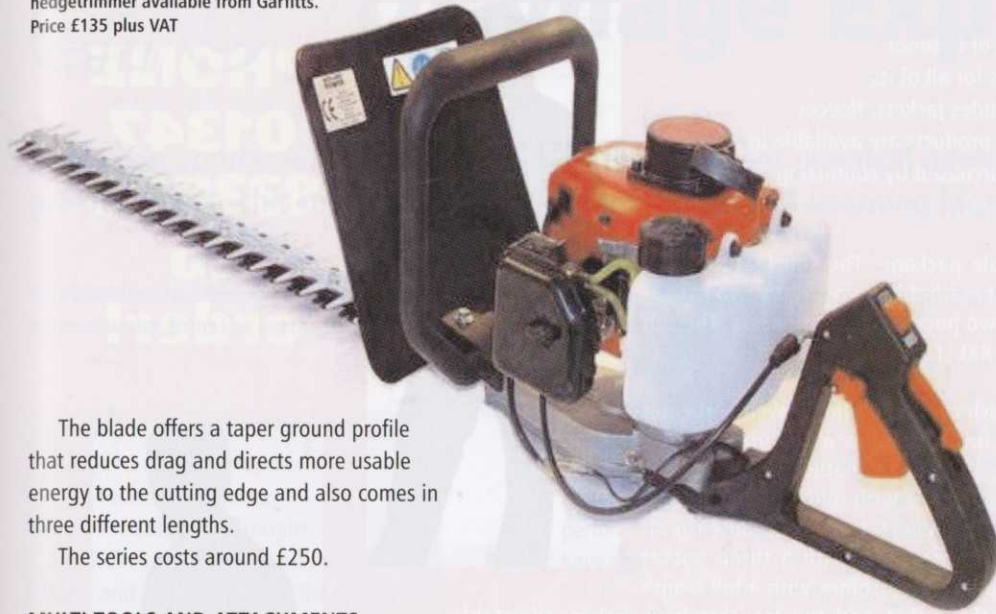
## HEDGE TRIMMERS AND POLE SAWS

The two key elements to a good hedge trimmer are the power unit and the blade. The ability to adjust the cutting head to a different angle enables the unit to be used to cut the sides' tops and possibly the upper reaches of the offside of a hedge with one unit, worked from the same positions.

Pole saws and hedge trimmer blades on the end of extension poles can make lopping small branches and cutting tall hedges much easier.

The Hayate Telescoping Pole Saw series is the latest technological development in professional pole saw design from Silky. The efficient, state-of-art, aluminium-telescoping pole saw boasts a light weight aluminium pole and a comfort-grip handle with cushion tip and comes three lengths of 12', 16', 20' fully extended.

The 22cc SL 600 Double Blade  
hedgetrimmer available from Garfitts.  
Price £135 plus VAT



The blade offers a taper ground profile that reduces drag and directs more usable energy to the cutting edge and also comes in three different lengths.

The series costs around £250.

#### MULTI TOOLS AND ATTACHMENTS

Sometimes it's much easier to have one piece of equipment that can do various jobs, or a model that can easily be tweaked and changed to suit another working situation.

The XLT3000 Multi Tool from Flymo is a powerful, versatile petrol trimmer and brushcutter that can easily convert to other useful tools.

Multi tools cost around £140 with attachments varying in price from £40 to £80.

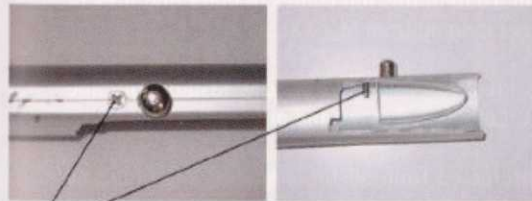
It is important that safety goggles and ear protectors are worn when working with power tools.



The XLT3000 Multi Tool has easy clip-on optional accessories, such as: a hedgetrimmer, edger, pole pruner, cultivator and blower



[abbeygardensales.co.uk](http://abbeygardensales.co.uk)



The spring is securely fixed with a screw

The Hayate Telescoping Pole Saw series offers an ultra sharp non-set tooth design that cuts quickly leaving a silky smooth surface and provides outstanding performance for cross, rip and slant cuts

# BIGGA's Fantastic Outdoor Range

**B**IGGA currently have a great stock of outdoor clothing at fantastically low prices for all of its members. BIGGA's new range includes jackets, fleeces, trousers and waterproof suits. All products are available in numerous sizes and colours and can be purchased by contacting Rachael Duffy on 01347 833800 at BIGGA HQ.

1. The Highlander Cargo Suit is the whole package. The suit features a coated micro fibre shell and waterproof breathable lining, with two cargo style pockets, plus two pockets on the trousers. The suit comes in M, L, XL & XXL. £55



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to  
order!**



2. The Tour Suit, which comes in either a Weatherbeater or Full Zipper style (pictured), has a waterproof outer fabric, which is fully lined. The Weatherbeater jacket is a short zipped pullover style with two pockets and has an adjustable draw cord waist. It also contains zip off half sleeves. The trousers come with a three pocket styling. The Full Zipper version comes with a full length covered zipper on the jacket and the trousers have velcro adjustable bottoms. Jacket size ranges from S - XXL and the trousers come in 27", 29", 31" & 33". The suits come in a choice of colours. £130

3. This does exactly what it says on the tin. The Four Seasons Breaker is just that, perfect to wear all year round. This item is a multi option pullover style top with a short zip and elasticated draw cord. This breaker zips off in two places to create three different garments, full sleeve, 1/2 sleeve or a sleeveless top. Available in a multitude of colours and sizes. £26



4. When it blows, it really does blow and the Windbreaker ensures that you don't feel any of the resulting chill. This stylish top features a soft Teflon coated microfibre outer coat and is a pullover style, with high v-neck and two side pockets. It comes in navy, black or charcoal. Sizes S - XXL. £25



5&6. This top, which is Teflon coated and contains a soft waterproof breathable lining system, comes in two different styles. The Sport Weatherbeater (5) has an adjustable draw cord and is a short zipped pullover style. The Sports Jacket (6) is a blouson style with a full covered zip. Both come in a variety of colours and sizes are available from S - XXL. £42

7. The Reversible Waistcoat has two pockets both sides, is fully reversible and has an adjustable elasticised draw cord. Teflon coated, this top comes in black and grey or navy and stone (as pictured), with sizes ranging from M - XXL. £22.50

8 The Gear Crew Neck Fleece is ideal for work and play, is fashionable and practical. Available in S, M and L. Colours red, navy and grey. £22

9. If you truly want to be protected from all the elements then look no further than the Outerwear Jacket. This strong jacket is a acrylic coated waterproof, has a full zip with storm flap, and concealed hood. £40

10. These smart, yet tough, polo shirts are made with a fabric that actively pulls moisture away from the skin by rapid evaporation. The Dry Gear shirt is just £16 and is available in white, with either blue, green or red collar trim. The Nailshead polo shirt is moderately priced at £19.50.



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# Drainage Explained

The GTC's approved learning materials offer excellent practical advice for young greenkeepers. This piece is generated from the Level 3 Learning Materials on drainage.

Improvement to drainage should be considered under two conditions; the need to remove surplus water out of the soil and to remove water from the surface.

- Greatly reduced aeration of the soil
- Reduced root development
- Less resistance to wear
- Less resistance to drought
- Inefficient use of plant nutrients
- Late and slow growth in the spring
- Increased susceptibility to disease

Table 1

Once a decision has been made that supplementary drainage needs to be used, the type of drainage required is the next consideration depending upon the problem identified. Several solutions are available:

- Pipe drainage
- Mole drains (rarely used)
- Open ditches
- Catchment drainage

Before any consideration is given to the location, spacing and installation pattern of any drainage, the outfall should be considered. The effectiveness of any system is determined by the outfall. Ideal drainage outfalls are considered to be positive outfalls, examples of positive outfalls would include:

- Ditches
- Streams
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Existing land or pipe drains
- Sump and pump

Soak away pits should not be used unless the underlying geological conditions are correct and it is possible for water to move into an underlying permeable layer.

Storm drainage may provide an outfall, however this type of drainage is usually owned and managed by the local authority and permission must be sought before connection of other drainage into this system. Do not assume permission will be given.

Sump and pump systems are used to move water from a storage area, the sump, to an outfall via a pump. This type of system should only be considered when all other options have been exhausted. They can prove to be expensive and will require maintenance, further information can be found in MAFF leaflet, No 14 Pumped Field Drainage.

## PIPE DRAINAGE

Flexible perforated plastic pipe is the commonly used drainage pipe now installed in the UK. Water enters the pipe through small perforations, although many people feel that the perforations will allow material in to the pipe and increase its susceptibility to blocking, tests have shown that this rarely happens. Three factors dictate the flow of water through a pipe; the fall, the pipe diameter and the pipe geometry.

The pipe geometry is the inside smoothness of the pipe. The flow rates for given pipe sizes can be found in the manufacturer's specifications.

Drainage pipe installation patterns usually fall into three categories depending upon:

- The surface grade of the land being drained.
- The size of the area being drained.
- The shape of the area.

These patterns are Herringbone, Grid and Random, (Figure 1)

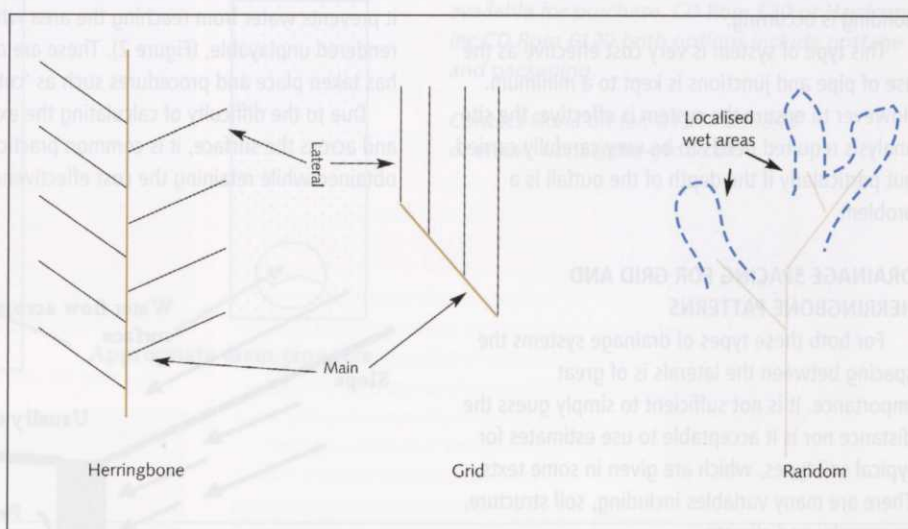


Figure 1

## HERRINGBONE

Principal areas of use for this type of design pattern are large and/or irregular shaped areas. If the soil type does not have sufficient hydraulic conductivity and slit drains are also to be incorporated into the drainage scheme, then the herringbone pattern is not a practical solution.

If the ground slopes the main should be installed so that it runs down with that gradient and the laterals placed across the slope. The relatively short lateral length means that the depth of the main is not usually an issue. The longer the lateral at a given fall then the deeper the main needs to be at the point of the junction. This pattern is often found in golf greens. Herringbone schemes can be complicated to install and unless accurate plans are kept, may be difficult to locate later.

## Drainage Explained

### GRID

A grid or grid iron pattern of drainage is often applied to areas which are relatively regular in shape. Winter games pitches and bowling greens are often designed with this type of drainage scheme. There are some advantages in this layout, fewer junctions are usually needed and the system is fairly easy to install.

If slit drainage is also being considered then the grid system allows for the slits to be installed at 90° to the laterals which can be, as previously mentioned, difficult to achieve with a herringbone system. Disadvantages of grid systems are that it can be prone to silting up at the junctions. For this reason laterals that enter the mains at 90° should be avoided. The use of long lateral lengths may also necessitate the use of very deep main drain runs.

### RANDOM

A random pattern can be either designed or is derived over a number of years as an existing system is added to. A random system is used to enable only those areas that require drainage to be drained. Common examples of this are often found on golf course fairways, especially those that have undulations present. In this case water frequently collects in the low lying areas and a decision is made to drain those areas where surface water ponding is occurring.

This type of system is very cost effective as the use of pipe and junctions is kept to a minimum. However to ensure the system is effective, the site analysis required needs to be very carefully carried out particularly if the depth of the outfall is a problem.

### DRAINAGE SPACING FOR GRID AND HERRINGBONE PATTERNS

For both these types of drainage systems the spacing between the laterals is of great importance. It is not sufficient to simply guess the distance nor is it acceptable to use estimates for typical soil types, which are given in some texts. There are many variables including, soil structure, geography and climate.

Before drain spacing can be calculated certain parameters need to be known.

- Rainfall: averages can be obtained from local weather data.
- The design rate: how fast is the rainfall to be removed? A system designed to remove 10mm over a 10 hour period would be less intensive than one designed to cope with 10mm per hour.
- The hydraulic conductivity of the soil: a measurement of the rate of moisture movement through a saturated soil.
- Depth of the pipe: the potential for water flow through the soil increases with depth.

The rainfall rate will be dependent upon the prevailing climatic conditions and geography of the area. The amount of rainfall that needs to be removed will depend on the sportsturf in question. Baker (1982), cited in Adams and Gibbs (1994), suggested that the maximum design rate, should reflect the greatest winter rainfall that is likely to occur in a 24 hour period once in every two years, however for top quality sports turf where revenue and playability are of major concern a 10 year period should be considered.

Rainfall data for the UK can be found at: [www.met-office.gov.uk/climate/uk/averages/sites/](http://www.met-office.gov.uk/climate/uk/averages/sites/) which gives the 30 year averages for all parts of the UK.

To calculate the spacing between the laterals the modified or simplified Hooghoudt equation is used, Gibbs and Adams, (1994), some assumptions are made with this namely that the depth of permeable top soil has a constant hydraulic conductivity and that the soil layer beneath the drains is impermeable. Therefore only the flow above the drains is considered. This produces the following equation:

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{h^2 4k}{v}}$$

Where:  $s$  = drain spacing (mm)  
 $k$  = hydraulic conductivity (mm/hr)  
 $h$  = average depth of soil (average depth of the drains) (mm)  
 $v$  = design rate (mm/hr)

### OTHER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

#### CUT OFF DRAINS:

This type of drainage is often called interceptor drainage. Pipework is installed in such a way it prevents water from reaching the area which may otherwise be damaged or as a consequence rendered unplayable, (Figure 2). These are often found at the base of slopes where construction has taken place and procedures such as 'cut and fill' have occurred.

Due to the difficulty of calculating the exact amount of water that is moving through the soil and across the surface, it is common practice to install the largest pipe diameter that can be obtained while retaining the cost effectiveness of the solution.

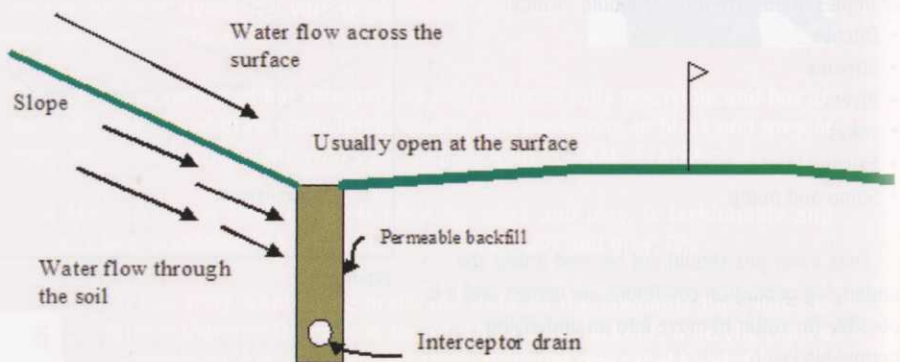


Figure 2

#### SAND SLITS AND SAND INJECTION

Sand slits, bands and grooves, are used to connect into existing pipe drainage laterals, usually at right angles and across any slopes that may be present. Slit material (sand/gravel), depth, width and length, can all be calculated. Further information on sand slits can be found in, Natural Turf for Sport and Amenity: Science and Practice, Adams and Gibbs, (1994), and Sports Turf: Science, Construction and Maintenance, Stewart, (1994).

## OPEN DITCHES

Open ditches are frequently found on the perimeter of sports turf areas or, in the case of golf courses, through the area. Ditches are a useful way to move large quantities of water from the area. Ditches will have an effect on the water table of the soil, producing a draw down effect similar to piped drainage. The depth of water in the ditch and the fall of the ditch need to be considered both during the maintenance of the ditch, especially during work such as clearing out, and if large machinery is used to carry out this work, or if new ditches are being constructed.

Water, 0.75 - 1m deep in a ditch with a fall of 0.15 - 0.3m over 1km will have a velocity of approximately 1m/second. Higher velocities than this will cause undercutting and erosion of the bank.

## DRAINAGE BACKFILL MATERIAL

Trenches for drainage as a rule of thumb need to be cut approximately 50 - 100mm larger than the pipe diameter. It is important that conditions for cutting the trenches are suitable; too much damage to the soil on the sides of the trench through smearing or damage to the structure will hinder the water flow into the trench.

A permeable backfill will need to be used over the pipe (Figure 3). This material should also be used under the pipe so that the pipe lies upon a layer of approximately 25mm of material.

This type of backfill will allow for the movement of water from the surface down to the pipe to be as rapid as possible; vertical movement. Lateral or sideways movement of water will also occur however; water will not flow from a small pore size - soil, to a large pore size - gravel, as the tension of the water in the small pores is too great.

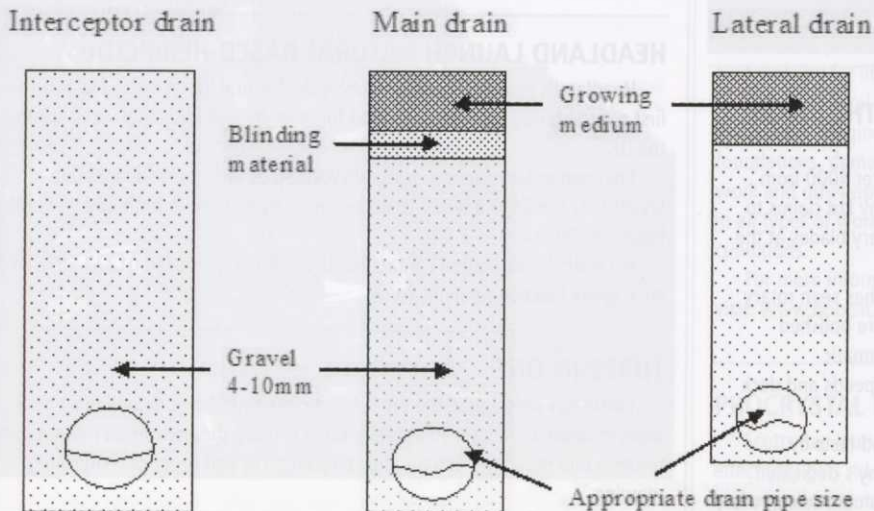


Figure 3

Gravel, material with a particle size of between 2 - 10mm, is commonly used as a drainage backfill material. A blinding layer of sand prevents particle migration from the final layer, either sand or soil into the gravel. Care must be taken in choosing/specifying the correct materials so that migration of one material into another does not occur.

## RECORDS

It is important that accurate records are kept of all the drainage works carried out. "As built" plans, should be provided by drainage contractors as a matter of course. Work carried out by the greenkeeper or groundstaff will also need to be recorded onto a site plan.

The plan should show the location of all the drainage pipework along with notes on the installation date, pipe type and size. The location of any silt traps, inspection chambers or flushing points, along with outfall locations will also need to be recorded. Open ditches should be recorded together with their peak flow depths and grade. Any drains that outfall into the ditch will also need to be marked on the plan.

*These learning materials are used by the GTC Approved Training Providers in Britain and are available for purchase. CD Rom £30 or Hardcopy inc CD Rom £120 both options include postage and packaging.*

*Contact Fiona on tel: 01347 838640 or email: fiona@the-gtc.co.uk.*

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# NEW PRODUCTS

## SAND PRO MACHINES CREATE WORLD-CLASS BUNKERS

Toro has launched a new generation of Sand Pro bunker rakes - the Sand Pro 5040 and 3040 - accompanied by a new range of attachments. The machines can now tackle a whole raft of landscaping maintenance jobs round the golf course.

For more information visit: [www.toro.co.uk](http://www.toro.co.uk)



## TURF TO SEEDBED IN FOUR PASSES

Terrain Aeration launched Gartenwerker at this year's Saltex, a new-to-the-UK rotovator which, due to two sets of contra rotating blades, does not bump over hard ground.

This lightweight hand-operated machine has a simple forward and reverse action, a 1.5 hp engine, a 30cm operating width and many safety features including a "Dead Man's Handle."

For further information contact Terrain Aeration on Tel: 01449 673783.



## HEADLAND LAUNCH NATURAL BASED HERBICIDE

Headland's new non-selective herbicide, Natural Weed Spray No 1, is the first natural based product of its kind for amenity and industrial weed control in the UK.

Environmentally friendly, Natural Weed Spray No 1 is biodegradable (eventually breaking down into water) and can be used in both amenity and industrial situations.

For further information contact Headland Amenity on Tel: 01223 597834 or visit: [www.headlandamenity.co.uk](http://www.headlandamenity.co.uk)

## THREE-IN-ONE

Etesia has redesigned the Pro 53 to incorporate their unique Biocut deck. Now, in addition to its revolutionary drive system, the pedestrian rotary offers three-in-one mowing - cutting and collecting, cut and drop, plus mulching mowing.

For more information visit: [www.etesia.com](http://www.etesia.com)



## ROTARIES JOIN THE SHARP SET

The new Rotamaster 4000 from Bernhard and Company Ltd claims to smoothly sharpen rotary blades at the fastest speeds ever.

The last 10 years has seen rotary mowers provide a more polished performance, with dramatic improvements in tip speeds and deck design.

Following trials and tests by Bernhard and Company's dedicated Research and Development team, rotary blades can now be speedily set-up and mounted through a special spring loaded vice and fast aligning jig bars.

For more information visit: [www.bernard.co.uk](http://www.bernard.co.uk)

## LINDUM'S INSTANT MEADOW

Lindum launched Lindum Wildflower at this year's Saltex, a ready made, living meadow, utilising the company's Grassfelt technology.

Wild flowers such as cats ear, oxeye daisy, yarrow and ladies bedstraw combined with grasses in Lindum's moisture retentive biodegradable felt base, give all the practical benefits of Grassfelt to a wild flower meadow.

For further information contact Lindum Turf on Tel: 01904 448675 or visit: [www.turf.co.uk](http://www.turf.co.uk)



## NEW 700 DIESEL

Quad and ATV manufacturer, Arctic Cat, introduced their 700 Diesel at this year's Saltex.

The new 700 Diesel uses a twin-cylinder naturally aspirated engine, driving through CVT transmission.

For more information visit: [www.ace.ag](http://www.ace.ag)



## ROCHFORDS KNOW THE DRILL

Rochford GM has introduced Earthquake Augers to their recently launched Ardisam range of outdoor power equipment.

The One Man Auger is powered by a 43cc 2-stroke high performance engine and is ideal for the homeowner and farmer. Ardisam Two-Man Earthquake Augers are available powered by 6.5hp Intek.

For further details call: 01963 828000 or visit: [www.rochfordgm.co.uk](http://www.rochfordgm.co.uk)



## NEW ORGANIC BASED FERTILISER

Organic based, stimulating soil microbial activity and reducing leaching, Endure fertilisers provide a steady release of nutrients over 10 to 12 weeks. Suitable for both fine and recreational sports turf, Endure is available in three formulations. Endure Autumn, (6-3-18) strengthens the sward against winter stress, Endure Spring (16-4-8) feeds without inducing flushes of soft growth, while Endure NK, is a nitrogen and potash only formulation (12-0-12), recommended for turf that does not require phosphates.

For further information on the new Endure range of organic-mineral fertilisers contact Vitax on Tel: 01530 510060 or visit: [www.vitax.co.uk](http://www.vitax.co.uk)



## THE TURF TROOPER MARCHES ON

Autoguide Equipment has announced the introduction of the Turf Trooper, a 60in (150cm) cut triple mower designed and manufactured by the Wiltshire based company and aimed at the domestic and semi-professional market.

For further details contact Autoguide Equipment on Tel: 01380 850885.



## NEW MINI-EXCAVATOR

In the 4 to 5 tonne class, Bobcat has made a major addition to the company's mini-excavator range with the launch of the new 4.2 tonne 335 model. The new 335 mini-excavator offers optimum weight distribution, providing the best stability for lifting work as well as general excavation, digging for foundations, demolition work and other applications in all types of working conditions.

For more information visit: [www.bobcat.com](http://www.bobcat.com)



## RE-USING CONTAMINATED WATER

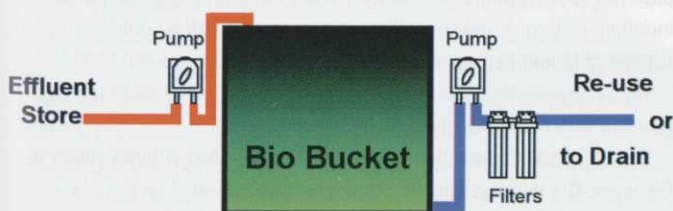
Water contaminated by pesticides or herbicides can now be returned to the land, or be re-used in washing applications.

This is made possible with a new decontamination system called the BioBucket, which is designed for the treatment of up to 5,000 litres of dilute pesticide. It also absorbs oils, fuels and grease from implement washing.

The BioBucket comes from Chichester-based, WMEC Limited, a world leader in effluent treatment, and uses an adsorption and biological breakdown system.

It automatically takes waste from the users own storage tank or sump, then passes it through the treatment process, before releasing it for reuse or disposal.

For more information visit: [www.wmec.co.uk](http://www.wmec.co.uk)



## PROCRYSTAL IS CLEAR SOLUTION

Scotts has launched ProCrystal, a new biological control that quickly and effectively gets rid of algae in ponds and lakes, returning the water to a clear and odourless state, without disturbing the natural balance of the eco-system.

Available in water-soluble, single-dose sachets, the product can be applied easily from the waterside or boat.

For more information Tel: 0871 220 5353 or visit: [www.scottspromotional.co.uk](http://www.scottspromotional.co.uk)



A body of water before and after treatment, and algae filament before and after treatment



## News from the Chief Executive

Upon my return from two weeks holiday I realised how the days suddenly seem to be growing shorter and any prospect of 'a few holes' after work is no longer an option. It seems only yesterday that I was writing about looking forward to playing more golf in the forthcoming season, getting better value for my subscription investment by playing more often and perhaps clipping a shot or two off my handicap, all ambitions that were never fulfilled! Like so many golfers today I am finding it more and more difficult to justify regularly spending at least half a day on either Saturday or Sunday away from home. This, coupled with the rising cost of golf membership, is perhaps symptomatic of some of the problems in golf generally. We discuss sustainability of grass species and playing conditions however, I do sometimes wonder at the sustainability of the number of golfing facilities that exist today.

This year has been as difficult, if not more difficult in some areas, as can be recalled in recent times. Lack of rain and restrictions on water usage have created undue pressure on greenkeepers as the quest for improved performance by many golf clubs continues. Somewhere in all of this I personally cannot help but feel that there is a wake-up call for many average clubs, members clubs in particular. Just what the answer is I am not sure however, over the coming years I can see severe financial pressure being a real threat to the existence of some facilities, or perhaps my interpretation of trends is wildly wrong!

On a more positive note I hope that you have all taken time to study the 'Continue to Learn' brochure for Harrogate 2007 that contains an unprecedented choice of Workshops and Seminars. Some workshops are already 50% booked, so if you have a specific preference then I urge you not to delay your booking form any longer than necessary. The exhibition for 2007 will occupy Halls A, B, C, and M and at the time of writing there is only a very small amount of space left to sell. There will be a number of new exhibitors and a detailed preview will appear in next month's Greenkeeper International. In the meantime further details of the event can be found on the Harrogate Week website: [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk).

The National Tournament, early in October, produced a worthy champion in Tony McLure and my congratulations go to him. My thanks go to the other competitors for supporting the event, to the members and Committee at Burton on Trent GC - who were excellent hosts and to Gavin Robson and his staff for the presentation of the course. In addition I would like to acknowledge the generous financial support of Ransomes Jacobsen, without which the event would not have been viable.

Development work has already commenced on the redesign of the Association's website following the appointment of a new design team. The new site will incorporate many of the suggestions that have been made by members and is due to be launched in January at Harrogate Week. The new format will give Headquarter's staff full control of content management meaning that it will be far easier and much more cost effective to keep the data up to date.

During the coming weeks I will be attending the Regional conferences and I look forward to meeting as many members as possible.

**John Pemberton**

### SCOTTISH REGION

#### Harrogate Week 2007

The Scottish Region once again offers their members a subsidised package deal for Harrogate Week 2007.

The Package includes: Entry to Continue to Learn Seminars (seven in total); three nights Bed and Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on 23rd, 24th and 25th January, 2007 in the Holiday Inn, Harrogate, (formerly Moat House Hotel). Package cost: £261.00. Accommodation package only: £156.00.

To obtain booking forms contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on: 0141 616 3440 or 07776 2422120 or email: [pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)

#### Ayrshire

The autumn meeting and final leg of the Harry Diamond Trophy was contested over Western Gailes GC. Although not present on the day myself, I have it on good authority that Jim Devlin and his staff had the links in first class order. On behalf of the Ayrshire Section I would also like to thank the Captain and committee at Western Gailes for allowing us courtesy of such a prestigious course. Likewise to all bar and catering staff for their friendly service on the day. We had another excellent turn out with 35 players taking part. The results were as follows: Harry Diamond Trophy - Duncan Gray, 62pts (better 2nd round); 1.1 J McLachlan, St. Nicholas; 1.2 G Morrison, Largs Kelburn; 1.3 S Higgins, Ardeer; 1.4 J Mair, Hamilton; 2.1 M Green, Ballochmyle; 2.2 D Gray, Pines; 2.3 J Wilson, Ballochmyle; 2.4 J Wilson Bogsides and Trade Prize - D Duthie, Richard Aitken.

The AGM will have taken place by the time you get this, so I will pass on any slightly interesting information next month. Honest!

Lastly, our match versus the N. Ireland Greenkeepers will have been decided on Friday, October 20. I will let you know most of the gory details of this 24-man thriller next time! Ta ra for now!

Denis Tweddell

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#### East

I start this month's report with a question - which would you prefer, a feast or a famine? Well, judging by the news and views, which have been pouring in from all quarters during the past week, the former is the resounding winner!

The Greenwood family from North Berwick are very much in the news this month with Stuart being appointed Scottish Chairman of BIGGA. He takes over the chair from Ian Barr of Largs GC, who has carried out his duties in exemplary fashion during the past two years. I also understand from a reliable source that Stuart is due to be appointed captain at Kilspindie GC, which all in all should make for an extremely busy 2007.

Not to be outdone on the news front, Stuart's daughter Fiona has just returned from Kenya where she spent six weeks doing voluntary work. During her time there she and her fellow volunteers helped complete the children's refuge centre in the town of Embu. The centre runs various pastimes for the many street children in this poverty stricken part of Kenya, including craftwork and sport. The trip was rounded off by climbing to the summit of Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain at 17500 feet.

Finally, Fiona would like to thank everyone who helped make this trip possible with their kind support.

On Wednesday, September 27, the Section held their autumn outing at Glencorse GC, where, thankfully, good weather prevailed on the day.