

# PRODUCT FOCUS

## UNIQUE HERBICIDE LAUNCHED BY SYNCEMICALS

**K**NOT OUT, a completely new answer to the perennial problem of weed invasion in newly sown or oversown grass areas has been introduced by Synchemicals Sports & Amenity Division. Containing the tried and tested active ingredient Isoxaben, Knot Out's residual action controls a wide range of germinating broad-leaved weeds, plus the time old enemy of the turf manager, knotgrass. The approved product MAFF No. is 04701.

Sport & Amenity have taken the opportunity to supply the product in a novel syringe applicator pack. Each premeasured dose is sufficient to treat 540 sq.m – equivalent in area to a football pitch goal mouths/centre circle or an average golf green. It couples easy handling with full compliance of the very latest safety requirements.

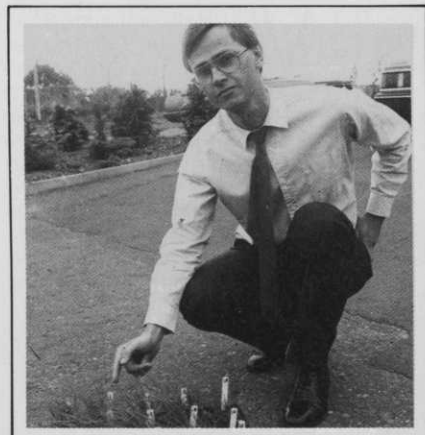
Synchemicals recommends application, either by knap-sack or mounted sprayer two days after seeding a well aerated, moist surface. Left undisturbed, the residual herbicide barrier will offer a season's weed control. Once the sward is established it can join the regular maintenance treatment programme.

Extensive trial work has confirmed that Knot Out is completely safe to all grasses with no varietal restrictions. Application rates of ten times that advocated have still produced grass growth. Major turf producers have all expressed marked interest in the product, and independent trials at STRI are currently in progress.

Technical Manager, Charles Platt comments that Knot Out is completely unique in its timing, weed spectrum and application. The product has a low vapour pressure and the Government approval enables pedestrian controlled equipment to be safely and legally used – a bonus for less favourable areas.

Other products on the market, he says either carry weed control and spray equipment restrictions or a recommendation not to re-seed within six weeks which is impracticable for a groundsman's programme.

Local authorities are seen as a major



Charles Platt: "Grass growth from ten times application rate."



Trevor Holmes, Commercial Sales Manager with new Knot Out.

customer with treatment of football pitches. The product is equally suitable for cricket squares, bowling greens, tennis courts and golf courses and also ornamental lawns.

He considers that the current weed species listed on the label do not reflect the true potential for Knot Out. "Apart from the listing for mayweeds, chickweed, speedwells, parsely-piert, common mouse-ear and knotgrass, excellent control of other broad leaved weeds such as plantains has also been achieved. It is envisaged that these will be added to the label in the near future."

## INCREASED EFFICIENCY WINS TENDER FOR WARWICK SERVICES

**G**ROUNDS Maintenance Manager for the DSO, Warwick Services, Mr. Quentin Nichols together with Assistant Grounds Maintenance Manager, Terry Cripps examined tradi-

tional greenkeeping practices closely in their efforts to bid successfully for the first landscape maintenance package for Warwick District.

This initial package, some 33% of the total landscape maintenance, has a value of £375,000. The package consists of a wide variety of areas including many fine turf areas. Amongst them is the increasingly popular Newbold-Comyn Golf Club in Royal Leamington Spa and the prestigious Victoria Park Bowling Greens, home of the Ladies National Championships.

Together with Kevin Kibney, Head Greenkeeper at the golf club and Veronica Tabor, Greenkeeper at the Victoria Park site, the Warwick Services team decided to look at a range of machinery which could be used to increase efficiency and compliment the existing range.

It was with this in mind that Warwick Services chose to look at the SISIS Hydrocore, a vertical action tining machine to add to their existing range of pedestrian operated fine turf machinery to speed up hollow coring and slitting operations on greens and cricket squares.

All the greenkeeping staff and management were impressed with the performance of the Hydrocore which was demonstrated extensively on the Victoria Park Bowling Greens only a couple of weeks prior to the Ladies National Finals! The machine was purchased a few weeks later and although based at Victoria Park it will also be used on the golf course and throughout the area covered by the contract.

In addition to the SISIS Hydrocore, SISIS Rotorakes play an important part in the turf maintenance programme for spring and autumn renovation work and summer grooming on all greens. Greens are cut daily using Lloyds Paladins and rolled regularly during the playing season.

## JUNIOR GROUNDSMAN

**R**& R (UK) LTD have introduced the Junior Groundsman. This mini-version of the popular Groundsman Workbench has been specially designed for smaller workshops. The machine for repair is simply wheeled on to the 1m x 0.5m worktable, then raised to a comfortably working height by means of a foot operated hydraulic ram.

The Junior Groundsman can lift up to 300 kg in weight. Its compact size and portability make it ideal for mobile units and workshops where space is limited. Paul English, R & R's Managing Director, commented: "The health of staff is of absolute importance in today's workplace. Time lost due to back injury through lifting heavy machinery creates major problems – especially for small businesses. The addition of a Junior Groundsman in a service department not only increases efficiency, but is a more professional approach to servicing."

The workbench is priced at £399 plus VAT.



The Junior Groundsman workbench from R & R (UK) Ltd.