

BALI Show continues to grow

COME rain or shine, The British Association of Landscape Industries Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire provided the ideal base for business and potential customer to get together.

More than 40 new exhibitors chose to participate in this years event and their confidence did not go unrewarded.

From the big boys such as Jacobsens, Massey Ferguson and ICI down to the one or two man "minnow" companies Stoneleigh provided a professional location both indoors and out.

More than 240 exhibitors were housed in two separate huge exhibition halls with other companies based outside in either static or working exhibit areas.

The first day saw heavy showers scatter crowds at the outdoor sites with the afternoon in particular proving a trial for those hardy souls brave enough to venture into the fields.

However they were rewarded with an exciting and informative series of displays by companies offering a wide variety of equipment applicable to a myriad of industries including greenkeeping.

Indoors a steady stream of visitors were able to view the stands arranged in a grid formation in the two halls. Demonstrations also took place in an outdoor arena ad-

acent to the indoor exhibition halls.

The general consensus of opinion among exhibitors was favourable generally with many tradesfolk commenting on the professional organisation of the event and the promising number of visitors.

The vassitudes of the British weather dictated that numbers outside rose and fell depending on the precipitation. However large numbers took advantage of the working sites to view the machinery and many firms reported taking healthy numbers of orders at their stands.

Several of the market leaders made a conscious decision to stay away from the show this year following general dissatisfaction. However judging from the visitor numbers their decision was perhaps a hasty one.

Show Press spokesman Steve Mitchell pronounced himself satisfied with the way things had gone at Stoneleigh and said he was looking forward to the event next year.

"Most of the people I have spoken to have said they have been very pleased with the response they have had from the show and this bodes well for future events" he said.

"I think we have tightened things up where necessary and this has been reflected in the general reaction. Support for the event has grown from 1989 and I would hope this will continue into 1991."

Greenkeeping Management's editor Mike McClelland reviews the recent BALI Show held at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire.

COUNTRYSIDE POLICIES ARE RIGHT FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE - BARONESS TRUMPINGTON

BARONESS Trumpington, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food visited Landscape Industries 90 at the Royal Agricultural Society of England's Stoneleigh showground.

Speaking at the showground the Baroness said: "Farmers and others living and working in the countryside face a challenging period of change. I do not think it would be going too far to say that the change is unprecedented since World War II. Twin pressures are causing this situation. On the one hand there is the need to reform agricultural policy to get surpluses under control.

"On the other hand there is concern about the environment and the effect of intensive agriculture.

"In 1986/87 the Government foresaw that the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy would bring with it changes in the pattern of land use. That is why we produce the Farming and Rural Enterprise package.

"This contained a range of new measures to help the agricultural industry adapt to the new situation. For example, it extended the coverage of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and introduced the Farm Woodland Scheme and the Farm Diversification Grant Scheme.

"Since then we have seen set-aside introduced and pilot extensification schemes are on the way. Nitrate Sensitive Areas will also have their effect on agricultural production. We are considering what else needs to be done.

"In particular, we want to see if conservation measures can be more integrated with agricultural support measures. For example, we recently persuaded the European Community to allow environmental requirements to be built into

the Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowances system.

"We have been criticised by some for adopting so many different measures that we are causing confusion. It has also been suggested that we should adopt a more positively planned approach to cope with the situation.

"I think that such criticism is misguided. I believe that the right approach is to provide a policy framework within which the necessary changes can take place and not to plan those changes in detail. The situations of individual landscapes and farmers vary.

"What suits one will not suit another. The range of measures we have adopted are targeted at dealing with particular problems. They are designed to help farmers make their own choices in the difficult times they face.

"Farmers are producers of food but crucially they are also custodians of the countryside. Only with a thriving and viable agricultural industry will it be possible for the countryside to be maintained and improved. It must be a living, dynamic workplace.

"Only if farmers have viable businesses will they have the resources that are necessary to ensure that we have a landscape of which we can be proud".

SIERRA LAUNCH AT STONELEIGH

SIERRA United Kingdom Ltd chose Landscape Industries '90 at the N.A.C. Stoneleigh to launch its landscape fertiliser manual.

Already leaders in supplying fertilisers to growers of ornamental plants worldwide, Sierra through the manual feature the significant environmental, labour saving and ease of use benefits associated with their controlled release fertiliser product range.

The manual is a comprehensive guide to Sierra products and their use and includes samples of the products contained in a neat tray. Set out in a clear, concise, easy to read format the guide gives step by step product choice, use and cost information.

The guide will be of special interest to landscape architects, DSO managers and all those involved in writing specifications for the Industry.

Subjects covered include tree and shrub planting and maintenance, Beds and borders, hanging baskets and planters, interiorscapes and turf establishment and maintenance.



A typical scene during the BALI Show at Stoneleigh.