

Hunter building N.C. plant

Hunter Industries, a manufacturer of sprinklers for turf and landscape, has broken ground in Cary, N.C., for an 83,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, announced managing partner Paul Hunter.

The plant is scheduled for completion next spring and will initially employ more than 200. It is located on a 17-acre site in the MacGregor Industrial Park, about 5 miles from Raleigh.

"The expansion of a major Hunter facility in North Carolina underscores our commitment to

serving the growing East Coast market," said Hunter. "The new plant will enable us to be more responsive to the needs of our East Coast distributors, and will ensure broader technical support and faster product delivery."

The official ground-breaking was attended by Hunter Industries founder Edwin J. Hunter and co-owner Ann Hunter-Welborn. The Hunters were welcomed by local civic and business leaders including William M. Teague, senior development representative for the North Carolina Department

of Commerce; Harry Brown, president of the Cary Chamber of Commerce; William Garmon, Cary mayor pro tem; and R. Marc Jordan, Raleigh Chamber of Commerce president.

Hunter's Michael McGrady, general manager of the new facility, was presented a North Carolina flag to commemorate the occasion.

"We are excited about our move to the East Coast. The welcome that we have received has truly made us feel that North Carolina is an excellent choice for our new plant," McGrady said.

EQUIPMENT NEWS

IME handling Snapper publicity

Snapper Power Equipment of McDonough, Ga., has appointed International Marketing Exchange, Inc. (IME) of Northfield, Ill., to handle a variety of marketing services.

IME will provide Snapper with public relations support to the trade and consumer media, including press contact and the production

of press kits, photographs and brochures.

Questions regarding Snapper products, corporate activities and trade and consumer advertising should be directed to IME officials, who are located at 540 Frontage Road, Suite 362, Northfield, Ill., 60093-1210; telephone 312-441-6577.

Kubota on move

Distributors network changes

Kubota Tractor Corp. has begun the first phase in a three-part program to improve its nationwide product distribution operations, President S. Egusa said.

According to Egusa, the new system was developed in an effort to keep pace with Kubota's increasing distribution demands. "We are pleased to have the program in place after nearly two years of research and planning," Egusa said. "Through new distribution channels the company will increase efficiency, reduce transportation costs and minimize transit time."

Phase I, which begins with product shipment through the Port of Tacoma, Wash., has reduced the number of ports-of-entry for Kubota products from six to four and restructured warehouse inventory allotment. In addition, a new warehouse has been opened at Port of Tacoma to serve Kubota's Northwest U.S. dealers and to serve as a national warehouse.

"Our transition to utilization of the Port of Tacoma has gone very smoothly," said Dan Ferris, director of distribution, purchasing and assembly. "We are looking forward to Phase II and III bringing increased flexibility and improved order cycle time for Kubota's network of 1,000 dealers nationwide."

The company's existing regional warehouses are located in Dallas, Texas; Atlanta, Ga.; Columbus, Ohio; Hartford, Conn.; and Compton, Calif.

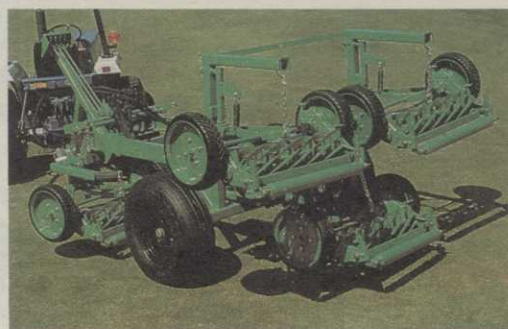
Credit plan in place

Kubota Credit Corp. has announced new 2.75-percent annual percentage rate financing that is available until Sept. 30 for qualified customers who buy new Kubota tractors and implements on a two-year contract.

Customers can also select a three-year contract at 6.75 percent, a four-year contract at 8.75 percent or five years at 9.75 percent APR.

Kubota is located at 550 West Artesia Blvd., Compton, Calif. 90220.

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Note: Example reflects total discounts of 18.4%. Sales tax not shown.

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