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EDITOR’S LETTER

To those of you returning to work from furlough welcome back! I hope you are settling easily in to any new ways of working that you may have. Covid has certainly affected many both personally and professionally during the past months. We at The Landscaper continue to offer support to our clients via our promotional platforms both online and in print for the products, machinery, materials and services vital for reviving the sector’s fortunes.

To be kept informed and receive our digital magazine and e-bulletins with industry news and details of product updates straight to your desktop or mobile device, simply sign up for free by visiting landscapermagazine.com and clicking through to the subscribe button under our latest digital magazine.

You can also subscribe to the print magazine to be delivered to your door by emailing me at maggie.walsh@btinternet.com.

As we continue, albeit cautiously, to step out of lockdown towards the autumn/winter months we now need to prepare for what 2021 might bring. For our calendars there are changes afoot. Trade shows such as the Landscape Show, SALTEX and BTME have had to be postponed and some are adapting. Usually at this time we are frantically preparing for exhibitions and shows up and down the country - instead it is those organising behind the scenes at these shows who are busy sorting new dates and seeking new venues to bring the best options to you for 2021. Watch this space for updates.

And while Coronavirus has done its best to disrupt the lives of the human population, we must not forget those pesky pests that bring diseases to our natural world, too. In this Arborist special issue we take a look at the health of our trees as Greg Rhodes (page 18) identifies possible threats to our leafy canopies and takes advice from experts on how manage them.

We also have a Q & A with Martin Lucas of GreenMech, suppliers of chippers and shredders, and pages of the latest products and news essential to the arborist trade.

Plus there is lots more to read this month – from how an irrigation system has brought life to the new development at the old BBC TV Centre in London, to how urban meadows have been providing food for pollinating insects and how suppliers to the turf industry are adapting to changing demands for sustainability and environmental awareness.

Enjoy the read.

Maggie Walsh, Editor
maggie.walsh@sheengate.co.uk

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Cover Story: STIHL BGA 200 cordless blower: Blowing force of 21 Newton, STIHL’s new BGA 200 cordless blower is the most powerful in the STIHL range and features a high air speed for coping with wet leaves. Easy to handle, thanks to its newly developed comfort carrying system.

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The turf industry’s premier annual gathering, the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), will not take place in January 2021 in Harrogate as anticipated, with an alternative ‘festival of turf’ planned for Summer 2021.

The event’s organisers, the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, has cancelled the popular trade exhibition due to the ongoing uncertainty relating to the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision was taken following consultation with members of the association and regular dialogue with representatives of the Harrogate Convention Centre and other major stakeholders.

The announcement of an alternative event in summer 2021 will enable BIGGA to explore options for hosting the event outdoors, which current understanding of the infectious disease indicates will make for a safe event and will allow improved social distancing measures to be implemented.

However, BIGGA’s world-leading education programme, Continue to Learn, usually held alongside BTME each year will still take place during January 2021 as an online event.

It is anticipated that BTME will return to the Harrogate Convention Centre in January 2022.

Of this recent announcement BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton says: “The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has sent shockwaves across our industry and BIGGA members have worked admirably in difficult circumstances to enable the continuing success of the facilities they maintain.

“With member health and wellbeing being BIGGA’s absolute priority, it was immediately clear that to invite thousands of turf professionals from across the globe to attend an exhibition during a season when there is anticipated to be an increased risk of disease transmission would be negligent and expose attendees to undue risk.

“BIGGA considers it important to host an annual event and BTME plays a vital role in the calendar year for the turf industry. BTME is an opportunity to come together to celebrate the achievements of the previous year, while building new contacts and looking forward to the future. We feel it is important to retain this community spirit where possible, especially considering the hardships we have all faced, and so we are exploring the possibility of hosting a safe and accessible alternative event in summer 2021.”

Responsible for organising the Continue to Learn platform, BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt adds: “Although the association will have no physical presence in Harrogate during January, we will be hosting Continue to Learn as a digital event and I’m certain the spirit of Harrogate week will be as strong as ever before.

“We have engaged with BIGGA members through our annual Members’ Choice survey and are in the process of building an incredible series of online learning that will enable BIGGA members to continue their professional development, wherever in the world they may be.”
In response to the progressive changes to the business and culture of the landscaping company, ESL Landscape Contractors recently rebranded changing the company name to Cultura. The new name is derived from the Latin "care and cultivate".

The rebranding has further been driven by the recruitment of a new senior management team from industry leading organisations, both landscaping and construction, who now operate from Farnham, Surrey.

Says Phil Jones, CEO of Cultura Group: “We have completely overhauled the business in the recent past. We thought that a new approach deserved a brand new name and image. The Cultura ethos is to care, tend and nurture every aspect of what we do so that we learn, improve and grow even further as a business that we can all be proud of. There is incredible potential for future growth and our new branding will position us for those opportunities."

The Cultura name is rooted in the company’s commitment to cultivate new partnerships – such as one which has just flourished as Scotscape Landscaping Ltd (the landscape construction division within the Scotscape Group) merges its future landscape construction operations into Cultura Group.

Cultura Group will provide landscape construction and associated services to the existing customer base of the combined businesses.

Angus Cunningham, Managing Director of Scotscape will work closely with Scotscape existing clients and Cultura Group throughout the transition phase.

“This is an exciting move within the landscape industry and for the two businesses. The team at Cultura has worked extremely hard over the past 18 months, concentrating on the training of our people and communication with our customers, amongst other things. This has led to improved quality of delivery, reputational change and a stronger business. This strategic alliance further strengthens our customer offering,” comments Phil Jones.

Angus Cunningham, Managing Director of Scotscape adds, “I have been impressed with the vision, improvements and drive that Phil and his team have introduced to Cultura Group. In making this change we are focusing on our future core businesses and ensuring the high quality of the landscaping service that we have been offering to our clients for the past 30 years continues to improve with Cultura Group. Strategically it allows us to focus on increasing our Landscape Maintenance and Urban Greening market share whilst ensuring our long-term landscape clients are in safe hands.”
AriensCo has announced the appointment of Brad Stiles as Director of Sales and Marketing EMEAA, reporting to Vice President Darren Spencer, who says: “The appointment reflects the strategic importance of growing the EMEAA business. Brad’s priority will be on building upon the existing footprint and successes.” Massimo Caner, European Sales Manager, Matt Wilson, UK Sales Manager and Jef O’Riley, Marketing Manager EMEAA, will report to Brad.

Brad grew up in the industry, with a father at AriensCo for 25 years. Brad himself has been with the business for 9 years and started in 2011 with Stens, which was owned by AriensCo at the time. He specialised in parts programmes and strategies with dealers to grow their overall parts business.

In 2014 Brad was promoted to a District Manager representing a territory in Indiana, where he specialised in creating plans to grow dealer business, regional marketing programs, commercial product sales, and new dealer acquisition and growth. He was subsequently promoted in August 2020.

“While these are challenging times, ahead of us are very exciting developments for AriensCo and the Outdoor Power Equipment industry alike,” says Brad. We have many innovations coming in the next 12 months which will shape the way our business grows, to the ultimate benefit of our relationships with our dealers and customers. My family and I are very appreciative of this opportunity from the Ariens family and look forward to making the United Kingdom our home.”

AriensCo UK manufactures the Ariens ZENITH, APEX and IKON X range of zero-turns, as well as Countax and Westwood garden tractors from its EMEAA headquarters in Oxfordshire, UK. The business also distributes ECHO outdoor power tools through a network of UK dealers.
Green-tech increases support to Perennial

Green-tech recently increased its long-term support to charity, Perennial, during these unprecedented times by becoming a Platinum partner.

Perennial steps in to help those working in the horticulture sector by providing free and confidential advice, support and financial assistance.

Says Richard Kay, Chairman at Green-tech: “Perennial supports a great many people and is going to be needed more than ever due to the devastating consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We wanted to show our support and commitment to safeguarding all those working in the UK horticulture industry, so now is the right time to become a Platinum Partner.”

Urging others to support Perennial if they can, Richard continues, “The charity offers a lifeline for many and will need additional funds to cope with the certain increase in demand. Businesses can help from as little as £100 per year and I would urge you get behind Perennial, do your bit and show your support by becoming a corporate partner.”

Phil Swainston, Corporate Partnership Manager from Perennial says, “I am delighted Green-tech has increased its support of Perennial, through our Corporate Partnership scheme, and I am looking forward to working with all the team who will be invaluable in spreading our message that Perennial is here for all those working in horticulture that need our help”

To find out how to help Perennial call: 0800 093 8510 for visit www.perennial.org.uk

SALTEX 2021 integral to the industry’s recovery

Luke Perry, appointed as SALTEX and Events Director by the Grounds Management Association (GMA) just six weeks before SALTEX 2019 believes that SALTEX 2021 will provide a huge opportunity for the grounds management industry to regroup, reunite and celebrate.

Enthused by his first taste of SALTEX, Luke was straight to work on preparations for the show’s 75th anniversary, spearheading the team of organisers in co-ordinating the strategy and making sure the event delivers on all fronts. “Putting on a two-day show is an enormous amount of work - it really is a 365-day project, but I wouldn’t have been in the events industry for so long if I didn’t love what I do,” he explains.

Luke is looking forward to making his mark on SALTEX’s 75th anniversary but will have to wait a little longer than originally planned, following the announcement that the show has been postponed from November 2020 to Spring 2021.

“It was an incredibly difficult decision to make, but absolutely the correct one,” he says. “I think the feedback and support from the industry certainly is testament to this. “We’ve had a fantastic response from exhibitors with many claiming that it will provide them with enough time to recover and plan effectively. In fact, many have suggested that Spring is actually a better time of year and that echoes the same feedback we have had from visitors. With such an unprecedented year ahead, we’re planning more than ever behind the scenes to make sure it hits the right mark.”

Luke candidly admits that show preparations are somewhat different to the usual event planning he is accustomed to.

“Our main priority is to put the safety of everyone connected with SALTEX above all else – and this is one of the reasons why the show was postponed,” he says.

“Nonetheless, we are working around the clock and planning for every eventuality. Part of this planning involves ensuring that we can deliver a show in which people can assemble and interact with a real awareness of the need to maintain safe practices. Should guidelines or restrictions still be necessary in March, we are working hard to ensure the show remains a brilliant and valuable experience for exhibitors and visitors. All we can do is take it step-by-step and ensure that we are prepared for each part of the journey.”

SALTEX will take place on 3 and 4 March 2021 at the NEC, Birmingham.

For more information visit www.gmasaltex.co.uk
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Lockdown, and the ensuing challenges created by it, have left many community pitches in dire need of special attention in order to be ready for the busy sporting calendar to resume.

The Grounds Management Association (GMA), the leading not-for-profit membership body for grounds professionals and volunteers, shares a list of top tips for community grounds staff on getting local sports pitches prepped and ready for grassroots sport to fully resume after Covid-19 lockdown.

Tips for prepping pitches post lockdown

Geoff Webb, CEO of the GMA, is hopeful these tips will provide community grounds staff and volunteers with the knowledge and confidence to help get their local pitches ready for sport to resume.
“It’s been a difficult time for everyone these last few months, particularly in the grounds sector,” he says. “Practically overnight, lockdown restrictions put an indefinite suspension to all sport, creating a number of challenges for grounds staff at all levels. As a result, many local community pitches have not been receiving the usual levels of care and attention when compared to pre-lockdown. This means they might not be in the right condition for the return of sport, particularly on such short notice. That’s why the GMA wants to share its knowledge and expertise to support our members and the wider grounds community with the challenge of getting the nation’s pitches back to play.”

The GMA’s top tips cover 4 key areas of grounds management which will be in need of specific focus after months of lockdown:

1. Mowing

In order to maintain the health of the grass plant, it is important to only ever remove 1/3 of the existing leaf blade. Where possible, you should try to maintain a frequent mowing regime, aiming to mow once or twice per week in order to maintain a thicker sward. Keeping the grass a little longer will help with root growth, particularly when the plant is under stress (heat, drought, cultural practices) because the longer the grass, the deeper the roots.

2. Thatch

A little bit of thatch is not a bad thing depending on the use of the facility. It’s important for grounds staff at community level not to make it their life’s work to combat thatch, especially if it is not causing a problem. Regular thatch control is a task that can be incorporated into your maintenance plan. It’s important that thatch is kept under control because too much of it will prevent water and nutrients moving through the soil profile, limiting root growth.

It’s also important to consider the action of thatch control and ensure that it is not overly aggressive – this will cause stress to the plant. Lastly, make sure that the climate permits a good recovery time; you can do so by carrying out the work at the right times of year, with spring and autumn being the ideal.

3. Aeration

Aeration will help support healthy turf if you choose the right time and conditions to aerate; if it is too dry, the tines won’t properly enter the soil. If it is too wet, you will end up causing more damage.

Try to understand why you are aerating; this means understanding that soil is a combination of mineral and organic matter as well as all-important air and water.

4. Managing resources

Properly managing resources will ensure that you are organised in your work and will help you achieve the best results. Start by keeping a simple diary of work carried out – this will prove invaluable in the future when looking back at when work was carried out, how much time was spent on it and most importantly, whether it had an impact, over and above this an annual maintenance plan is vital – if you don’t plan what you want to achieve, how will you know you got there?

Another key task of resource management is to carry out checks on your machinery before and after use. This is simply about maintaining your equipment because without it, you can’t work and without your work, the game can’t be played. A rough annual maintenance on machinery can help with the planning of budgets.

Try to understand why you are aerating; this means understanding that soil is a combination of mineral and organic matter as well as all-important air and water.

5. The annual maintenance plan

When it comes to the ordering of resources during renovation periods, think about what it is you want to achieve during the following season and plan from there. It is all very well saying you want to achieve a suitable playing surface, but what will you write in to your plan to achieve that?

The GMA’s recent Back to Play report shone a light on the state of the nation’s pitches and the impact they could have on the future of sport in this country. The report found that within the next decade, almost three quarters of a million adults and young people will be affected weekly or seasonally by the deterioration in standards of existing pitches. This will result in a fifth of people who play rugby and football being unable to play every week with more than half of people who play cricket seeing matches reduced. The impact of lockdown on the ability of local communities to continue with grounds maintenance is likely to have exacerbated this problem.

Geoff Webb continued: “If the nation’s pitches were suffering before this pandemic, then they are bound to be desperately in need of support now after months of reduced care and attention. We’re hoping that tips like these, along with our online resources, can support local grounds staff in getting our pitches ready.”

For more information about where you can find the resources to improved your knowledge of grounds maintenance, visit: https://thegma.org.uk/learning
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Are you looking at ways to reduce admin tasks for your business to get your evenings back with the family? This month, Paula Warman looks at ways to reduce time spent on paperwork and seeks alternative ways to streamline this part of your business.

There are lots of ways to do this, but we are going to discuss two solutions to these popular problems in many landscaping businesses. We all seem to be experiencing an influx of enquiries since going back to work after lockdown and so admin and paperwork is on the rise too. So, if you want to make life a little easier then read on:

**Outsource**

This is my number one tip for any small business that tends to spend large amounts of time on areas of the business that they have little experience in or that they simply do not enjoy.

Outsourcing will require investment. However, it will save time that you better spend carrying out tasks you are skilled at and will bring in the money. For example task your tax returns to another so that you can get on and complete a design or garden project.

When we start out in business, we have to be the call handler, the accountant, debt collector, marketer, salesperson and skilled and professional tradesperson. However, as the business grows you can plan to outsource some of these duties.

Think about outsourcing accounts, book-keeping, tax returns and call answering services. Look at the option of having a virtual assistant or start outsourcing your marketing activities. There are so many ways to reduce the paperwork pile and items on your to do list utilising through outsourcing - but the caveat is you need to run the numbers to check affordability of each outsource or hire. So, go back to your cashflow forecast before committing.

**Streamline systems**

Systemising and processes are key ways to reduce time spent on paperwork and admin duties. However, it is knowing what systems to use, how easy they are to implement, the benefit to the business and affordability. Whilst researching technology and apps available to help streamline your business I came across Powered Now. Built for trades that tend to be swamped with paperwork and need a helpful system that is not only available online and offline but is affordable for the smaller landscaping and design business.

Powered Now is a digital platform that aims to streamline your admin tasks from quotes to invoicing, keeping timesheets, options for team chat, complete appointment management and scheduling and customer record management. From the initial look at the app it’s a great place to start.

The benefits to a business is that everything is centralised in one place so nothing will get lost amongst other files on a laptop or PC. The ability to schedule and manage appointments with customers, keep track of projects, what the teams are doing and more means it looks like it could do the work of multiple programmes that you may or may not be using.

It’s a great way to run a small business and it is very easy to use. Having signed up for a free trial I am looking forward to giving it a test run in my landscaping business to see if it could manage our back end systems in one place. I would advise any landscaper, designer or small business looking to streamline their admin to take a look at this. The businesses’ budgets. I urge you to take a look as it could be the solution you have been waiting for.
Our tree health is under threat as never before. Setting aside the efforts underway to replace specimens lost to land development, a phalanx of alien organisms is assaulting the UK tree population on an unprecedented scale.

As an EU member, the UK enjoyed free trade among the other 27 states although plants and trees introduced from mainland Europe are subject to some level of biological security controls, while larger nurseries reportedly operate a quarantine policy to help prevent alien entities crossing our shores by retaining stock for up to a year before releasing it.

From 1 January 2021, post Brexit, however, the UK will introduce its own regulations, which are planned to further tighten control measures.

But the problem of provenance is a thorny one, notes Dr Matt Elliot, Policy Advocate – Tree Health & Invasives at The Woodland Trust. “Often it’s not known, as once a plant spends more than three weeks in a country, it takes on that country’s origin.” Tracing true origin of an infected specimen may seem a lost cause to some degree.

At risk
The stakes are high for some of the UK’s most treasured tree types. “The Defra UK Risk Register identifies at least 127 high-risk pests and diseases,” Matt continues. And the list is growing.

Matt cites the oak processional moth (OPM) as an example of how alien species can gain access. The OPM caterpillar’s hair can cause an allergic reaction and aggravate conditions such as asthma. “The moth was brought into the UK at the Chelsea Flower Show”, he explains, noting that the onus falls on local councils and landscape contractors to introduce sufficiently rigorous sourcing strategies.

Warmer climate, particularly in southern England, is imposing more stress on trees, leaving them susceptible to attack from invasive species, Matt adds.

Trade bodies such as the Arboricultural Association are playing a key role in the battle to halt the assault by stepping up training courses and formal qualifications to raise professionalism and standards across the sector.

“Anybody can take a chainsaw course,” says Matt,
but he adds whether residential, amenity, sport or landscape setting, “responsibility rests with the landowner to ensure trees are safe.”

Although methods such as air spading can relieve compaction around trunks, with mulching also helping to maintain and improve health they form only part of tree maintenance and monitoring strategies.

**Intervention and management**

Reactive treatments are one thing but “finding problems earlier allows earlier intervention and management”, Matt stresses. That’s when technology can take a hand. “Checking the rate of transport of water, minerals and food in xylem and phloem indicates how healthy the plant is, and this can be measured using specialised technology.” Machines that assess tree health using foliage colour are also coming into force, he adds.

The conversation is moving forward as national bodies such as The Woodland Trust campaign for the Government to introduce fines on landowners if they fail to tackle trees deemed dangerous to the public. There’s no legal requirement in place yet but watch this space.

Focused on test technology is Dr Jon Banks, Research Laboratory Manager at Bartlett Tree Experts, who meets regularly with a biosecurity panel of tree officers and stakeholders to monitor the UK status on controlling pests.

“All our London offices report problems with OPM,” he says. Introduced accidentally into the capital in 2005, its caterpillars can cause rashes and respiratory issues. The pine processory moth meanwhile causes even greater foliar damage, he states.

Some pests have taken such a grip in the UK that Jon considers them literally part of the landscape - honey fungus, for example, which damages roots, is “essentially endemic” now.

Tree health can depend on other factors too, he maintains. “Awareness of the importance of planting and growing trees is mounting in the UK and I’m hopeful that UK production will increase, despite our limited available land space.” That’s perhaps one reason why more growers are choosing smaller species.

However, faster-growing species can have poorer root structure and can break up structurally over time, Jon notes.

**Right tree for right place**

Despite the growing emphasis on planting indigenous species, non-native trees are not necessarily bad, Jon argues. “Rather it’s important to select the right tree for the right place”, bearing in mind factors such as drought resistance, high or low pH and soil condition.

Sound scientific knowledge among landscape contractors and arborists will help this process. Soil samples are critical before taking any action, he says, to determine micro and macro nutrient levels, together with an assessment of crown structure and tree girth to determine how the tree is going to look in the years ahead.

Tolerance lists for honey fungus identify species resisting its effects. “A study of the trees surrounding the location will tell you those that like the local soil environment.”

“Identifying tree pathogens from soil sampling is difficult however,” he continues, “but the world of big data has helped increase knowledge of epidemiology – that of ash dieback for example – proving that the disease originated from wind-blown spores predominantly rather than from imported trees.”

The troubling rise in alien pests persists though. “Bacterial leaf scorch - Xylella fastidiosa - is a hot new disease. We are monitoring signs for it in the UK as it has not arrived here yet. The disease vector is the spittle bug and we are urgently checking its distribution as the bug has a huge host range.”

Maintaining tree health nationally is important as trees increasingly form part of the solution to water management in the UK. “Communities are realising how key they are in the urban environment. Careful planting can help deliver sustainable drainage, mitigating the impact of storm water.”

---

*Pseudomonas bleeding canker. Photo credit: G. Percival Bartlett*
Technology to fight against disease

Technology is already aiding the fight against disease. “Electrostatic sprayers mounted on pick-ups are useful for treating OPM,” Jon explains. They deliver better rates of spray and more closely target treatment liquids. “The same substance but in low volume and high concentration with tighter focusing - less time-consuming too.”

Reduction in the chemical armoury still on the permitted list does tie our hands but developing the tree’s induced systemic resistance helps, he adds. Systemic insecticides can be applied to kill pests – the emerald ash borer beetle for example – but only as emergency products used in a restricted area to control an outbreak.

Ultra low volume sprayers come in handy for small-scale in-house testing, Jon explains. “All our offices have one.”

Tree stem injection technology is moving ahead. Research is underway with a major stakeholder using a fertiliser product that kick-starts the immune system. “One process uses a blade to cut into the tree stem then apply the product. It’s a natural way to treat and the holes heal quickly,” Jon reports.

Micro-injection methods are in the research stage too, using a 10mm diameter drill and a plastic plug with a valve in it through which to insert the treatment product. Any size of tree is suitable “as long as it’s not too small”.

But, cautions Jon adds, “injecting a tree badly is all too easy. Training schedules can help operators to understand sap flow and perform the task correctly.”

Traditional ways to inspect tree upper reaches are giving way to less invasive methods such as drones, Jon continues. Climbing inspections require ropes, which rub against the bark and can cause cankers, allowing disease to set in.

“The Forestry Commission use them across large estates in North Wales and Scotland. We have tested them but our experience is that they didn’t allow us to see enough of the canopy or the tree’s interior branches but they give a fantastic perspective on tree contours. Operators need a commercial drone licence to use them.”

Thermal imaging is appearing in the tree health picture by using infrared to record the colour of the leaf surface. “The technology has the potential to be extremely useful,” Jon predicts.

No entry visa for these aliens

By Dr Matt Elliott, Policy Advocate – Tree Health & Invasives, The Woodland Trust

The Defra UK Risk Register identifies at least 127 high risk pests and diseases. https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/index.cfm. Here are just some:

Ash dieback – a fungus that will kill at least 80% of ash trees in the UK. A recent Oxford study found that the economic, environmental and cultural cost of this disease will be £15bn.

Xylella fastidiosa – a bacterial disease that could cause devastation if it reaches the UK. Can be moved easily within the plant trade. High risk hosts include commonly traded horticultural species including olive, lavender, rosemary, Prunus and Polygala.

Emerald ash borer – a small beetle that has killed billions of ash trees in the US. Currently, it is in western Russia but not yet in the UK.

Bronze birch borer – similar beetle to the emerald ash borer except that it kills birch trees. Currently in the US but yet to reach the UK.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) – the caterpillars cause respiratory problems in humans and animals. This pest has been imported many times.

Phytophthora species – the main feature details problems caused by Phytophthora ramorum but there are many other species of Phytophthora that move freely in trade. They infect oak, juniper, beech, alder and many more tree species.

Plume wilt – this fungus (Ceratocystis platani) would devastate plane trees in many of our cities if it arrived here, most notably in London, where plane is a major urban tree species. The fungus is currently in France.

Oak wilt – very similar to plume wilt except that it is specific to oak. This is causing many issues in the US but it has not yet been found anywhere else.

Sweet chestnut blight – a fungus (Cryphonectria parasitica) that has been responsible for the loss of billions of chestnut trees in the US. It is now in the UK, having been imported a number of times.

Bleeding canker of horse chestnut – this bacterium has caused significant issues in ornamental horse chestnut trees in the UK for at least the last 15 years. A 2007 survey found that the disease is very widespread.

Procurement is very important, so we recommend that trees are procured through a biosecurity assurance scheme such as UK & Ireland Sourced and Grown. For more details visit The Woodland Trust – www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
a uniform structure and we found in tests that IR gives a comparative picture of whether they are well or unwell.

Instrument manufacturer Hansatech has developed an arbor check or chlorophyll fluorimeter to detect the wavelengths of light leaves re-emit as excess to their photosynthetic requirements.

The fluorescence usually occurs in the longer wavelength red/far-red regions and can act as an indicator of the stress the tree is under – from either environmental or disease factors.

Bartlett’s undertook a listening project last year to test audiology on a tree in Nottingham. A sensor fitted into the trunk recorded sap flow. “It’s simple to use – a kind of modified hyperdermic needle drilled the sensor into the bark then recorded flow data.”

But the scope of research into and collaboration on tree diseases is going global. An international link-up is pooling knowledge about bacterial leaf scorch, so serious is the threat.

The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory acts as a research, training and learning resource for employees and customers nationally and internationally – perhaps one indicator that the fight against invasive tree pests has to be fought beyond national boundaries.
Cleaner fuel for efficient performance

Thirteen years into not using petrol from the pump, Nick Rose - Owner of Redwood Tree Services Ltd - says making the switch to Aspen Alkylate Fuel has filled more than just his tanks. The efficiency and cleaner performance of his 2 and 4-stroke equipment has led to huge financial savings through significant improvements in performance and reduction in costly repairs.

The seven operatives of the Surrey-based tree surgeons undertake a wide variety of domestic and commercial projects utilising a large fleet of petrol driven equipment - including in excess of 30 chainsaws. “I first discovered Aspen Fuel when I attended the Arb Show at Cirencester,” explains Nick. “We were a relatively small firm at the time, conducting a lot of hedge work and domestic jobs, and I found I was experiencing a lot of headaches and side effects of working in such close proximity of 2-stroke engines. This was all but eradicated, overnight, after we trialled the Aspen product.”

Aspen Alkylate Petrol is virtually free from sulphur, benzene and solvents, making it 99% cleaner than regular petrol when comparing the level of hazardous hydrocarbons. With these ingredients removed, the odour and infamous ‘blue haze’ produced is minimal, reducing the impact the machinery makes on both the operator and the environment. “The health benefits were apparent immediately, but we quickly also began to discover how much better Aspen was for the health of our machinery.”

“Our chainsaws and other equipment are in use tirelessly, but the fact that Aspen burns so much cleaner and is free from ethanol means we very rarely experience reliability issues when it comes to engine performance – Carburettor’s, gaskets, spark plugs even, which I’ve seen destroyed in a matter of weeks or months in chainsaws running on pump fuel just aren’t an issue when you’re using Aspen.”

The savings for Nick extend beyond that of costly replacement parts, he has also noticed a reduction in his overall fuel usage. “It takes us roughly six months to go through a 200L barrel of Aspen, which is great value when you consider the vast improvements in the efficiency of our equipment. Having the fuel on site is another major benefit and gives us further savings in the form of time, by not having to go to the petrol station every week. All around, it just makes complete sense.”

Chain reaction

The EGO Power+ 45cm chainsaw (CS1800E), is the latest addition to a range which also includes a 30cm and 40cm chainsaw. The new tool is specially designed to meet professional needs by combining comfort, durability and high performance in a robust and easy-to-handle design.

Using an efficient brushless motor powered by pioneering 56-volt Arc lithium-ion technology, the EGO chainsaw features an impressive chain speed of 20m/s and bumper spikes to increase control when cutting logs, while a chain brake adds to safe operation. For ease of use, automatic oiling and tensioning features mean there’s no tooling and less maintenance on the job, while additional features - such as an LED light and easy oil inspection – add up to one of the most advanced battery chainsaws on the market.

It delivers all the power of petrol, without the harmful side effects. Indeed, with a noise rating of 93LpA/104 LwA and a vibration of 5.1/3.5m/s2 it can be used comfortably and safely for extended periods, minimising risk of RSI and white finger.

Manufactured from robust, weatherproof materials for a longer service life, it’s also compatible with a choice of high-performance batteries, with runs times from 40 cuts with the 2.5Ah battery up to 160 cuts with the new 10Ah battery – enough for a full day’s work. EGO Power+ 45cm chainsaw (CS1800E) weighs 4.5kg without batteries.

The EGO Power+ 45cm chainsaw retails at £239.00 and comes with a two-year professional warranty.
Makita’s DUC355 Twin 18V chainsaw is a powerful machine, designed with ease of use and maximum operator control in mind. Available as a body only (DUC355Z) or with twin-port charger and 2 x 6Ah batteries (DUC355PG2) this saw is powered by two 18V LXT batteries to drive the 36v brushless motor.

With a maximum output of 1,100W for fast and efficient cutting and with chain speeds of up to 20m/sec, this cordless model offers equivalent performance to that of a 35cc petrol engine saw.

Powered by Twin 18V LXT technology, the DUC355 Chainsaw benefits from Makita’s battery protection system. Through CPU, LXT batteries communicate with the charger so that the charger can identify issues such as whether the battery has over discharged or overheated. If this is the case, the charger will work to rectify the problem before charging begins and this enhances the life cycle of each battery, keeping them working at their optimum for longer.

The DUC355 includes a variable speed trigger that provides the same control as you would have with the throttle on a petrol engine chainsaw. Constant speed control also means that the chain speed can be easily maintained, for optimum operation when working under load.

For efficient cutting action, the large, metal spike bumper works to grip materials and prevent the blade from slipping. And to maximise user comfort, the DUC355 has been designed with an ergonomic soft grip. To prevent the loss of nuts when removing the sprocket cover to replace the guide bar or saw chain, the machine utilises captive nuts.

For advanced safety, the DUC355 includes a kickback brake and electric chain brake, as well as an auto power off function, that automatically turns off the chainsaw after no activity for one minute to prevent accidental start up.
GreenMech offers the chipper of choice for two arborists working on projects across the south of England.

AS Treecare, who deliver domestic tree works in and around Surrey and SW London would be lost without the GreenMech QuadChip 160. With parking and space at a premium in tight urban and suburban locations, the 360-degree turntable of the QuadChip improves the speed and efficiency with which both timber and brash can be processed.

"Says Owner Andrew Steel, owner of AS Treecare, who has recently upgraded to his third unit – a MK II model supplied in April 2020 by GA Groundcare. "The turntable gives us convenience that shouldn’t be underestimated. With 90% of our workload comprising of domestic garden projects, it’s common to have to contend with restricted parking space and in many situations, you can’t secure enough space behind a conventional chipper to process brash. With the QuadChip, we can angle it so that brash can be piled up on a driveway or path and loaded straight into the infeed chute."

Powerful twin vertical feed rollers offer exceptional pull and crushing capacity for timber and brash of up to 6", with consistent processing quality provided by GreenMech’s patented Disc-Blade chipping technology.

Andrew also has a GreenMech CS 100 pedestrian chipper, which he calls upon when access is even more restricted.

Further afield, Tim Hill of Twentyeight Trees has recently invested in a GreenMech Arborist 130.

“Over the last 18 months, we were hiring in chippers on average three times a week which is not only expensive but comes with the stress of looking after and safely storing a machine that’s not your own,” says Tim. With the majority of Tim’s work being domestic in nature, he knew that when it came to buying a chipper, a small machine that could easily navigate residential streets and restricted access properties and gardens was what he needed.

“I looked at a few different makes and models but there were a few reasons the GreenMech machine came out

The Husqvarna 540i XP battery chainsaw has been developed specially for professional tree care workers, featuring an optimised system to deliver the next step in battery performance and innovation.

The 540i XP chainsaw uses the Husqvarna BLi300 battery, which gives the chainsaw capabilities equivalent to professional 40cc class petrol chainsaws, making the 540I XP ideal for tree removals and smaller felling tasks.

The chainsaw boasts excellent cutting capacity to tackle thick trunks and branches, whilst also being fast and nimble to for pruning and limbing tasks. Available with 14” or 16” bar as standard. As a result, the 540i XP is the perfect all-round saw for tree care workers.

The 540i XP offers superior benefits for professionals when working high up in the trees. Thanks to its lightweight design, the 540i XP provides easy handling and has an advanced, user-friendly bright LED interface for quick control showing battery level, savE eco mode, warning messages, chain brake status and connectivity status.

Other benefits of the 540i XP chainsaw include the absence of direct emissions, reduced noise, and fewer vibrations, which equals less strain on the body and the ability to work in noise-sensitive areas without disturbance. Furthermore, to handle the everyday work life of arborists, the 540i XP is made with premium materials and durable components, resulting in an extremely robust chainsaw. The saw is also IPX4 classified, meaning the machine can operate in challenging weather, ensuring it is a long-lasting and reliable tool that can be used all year round in all weather conditions.

Cutting through thick and thin
The GTM Professional GTS 1300 range of compact and powerful wood chippers are designed to offer a portable option to chipping branches and crops – perfect for tree care, landscaping, forestry and garden maintenance.

Efficient and safe to operate due to their chipping system – a rotor with two blades, one counter blade and ejection through a large discharge chute, the machine pulls branches up to 12 cm (4.4”) thick into the machine. The clean cut wood chips are ideal to use as mulch or compost.

The GTS 1300 is a powerful gravity-fed machine for professional use in tree maintenance, ground care and forestry. With a maximum height of 150cm (59”) and the engine sited under the hopper it is less than 80cm (32”) wide making it the most compact chipper in its class.

Light at 210kg (463lbs) and perfectly balanced so that one person can operate and move the machine safely. Operator safety features include a panic bar, rotor locking system and safety switches.

A tracked version, the GTS 1300RG, equipped with caterpillar tracks to operate on rough terrain, suitable for gardens, parks and forestry is available. It can easily manage steep hills up to 20° incline.

Finally the GTS 1300 PTO is suitable for coupling to any tractor up to 45hp with a 3-point attachment and power take-off. A trailer can be attached to the back of the machine; for wood chips to be blown into directly. The safety mechanism is entirely independent of the tractor and works with any tractor.

GTM Professional wood chippers – for expert gardeners and professionals.

alchemywpc.co.uk
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A quiet revolution has been taking place across the UK for the last five years as resin bound surfacing has transformed the driveways, paths and patios of thousands of homes across the country.

No other surfacing solution delivers a beautiful finish with such a unique range of practical benefits. Resin bound surfaces are permeable and SUDS (Sustainable Urban Development Systems) compliant. That means no planning permission is required when installed on a suitable base, making resin bound an ideal choice for new builds and renovations.

Perfect for residential and commercial use
The versatility of resin bound means it can be used on a wide range of landscaping projects, from residential installations such as driveways, paths and garden patios to commercial projects such as car parks, plazas and walkways.

Compared to traditional surfacing solutions, resin bound is low maintenance and easy to clean. Resin bound surfaces are also weed, frost and slip resistant.

A colour for every property style and age
The design opportunities for resin bound are limitless. Colours span the spectrum, from the richest reds to stylish silvers to soft and subtle golden browns, and it can be used to design bespoke company logos, house numbers, contrasting borders and countless shapes.

DALTEX – The No.1 brand in resin bound
Derbyshire Specialist Aggregates is the UK manufacturer and home of DALTEX - the UK’s No.1 brand for resin bound systems and offers the largest range of resin bound aggregates in the UK.

The DALTEX UVR resin bound system has been awarded certification by the BBA (the British Board of Agrément) - the highest industry standard available.

DALTEX dried aggregates are meticulously dried and cleaned to produce the highest quality product. When combined with DALTEX UVR stable resin, DALTEX dried aggregates deliver a stunning resin bound finish.

DALTEX Bespoke offers a range of over 46 striking colour blends.

With silvers and greys continuing to be in demand, the range has been increased with the introduction of stylish new Anthracite and Ocean Grey - perfect for both contemporary and traditional projects. Samples of all blends are also available.

Resin bound training
Derbyshire Specialist Aggregates also offers specialised training for landscapers, specifiers and contractors considering adding resin bound to their services.

• For further information: Tel: 01629 636500
• Email: sales@derbyaggs.com
• resinbondedaggregates.com
GreenMech machinery is British designed and manufactured. What do you think it is that sets you apart from global competitors and how do you compete in such a competitive market?
One of the things that sets us apart from many of our global competitors is that we are predominantly designing our products to suit the European market where specification, quality of build and price all have to be wrapped up within a tight 750kg package. Although more and more people are taking their trailer test, the sub-750kg product remains the dominant requirement across our region. GreenMech have always had a culture and strong desire to design, develop and manufacture customer ideas which has helped us to build a strong international business.

Aside from the UK market, which other country has strong sales for GreenMech products and why do you think this is?
As well as our manufacturing facility in the UK, we operate warehouse, sales and support facilities in both France and Germany – giving us a platform to grow our market penetration in both of these regions. Across Europe, and in many countries around the world, we partner up with distributors, including as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Russia.

What is your personal favourite GreenMech machine / model and why?
My favourite machine is still the CS pedestrian/gravity-fed chipper and the main reason is that it always surprises customers with what it can do! Generally on a demonstration, they will start with some small twigs and as they begin to see its performance capability, they get bolder and bolder and, before you know it, you have some sizeable branches going through.
The Landscaper | Issue 248 | September 2020

With sustainability and the environment affecting the buying habits of many within the UK industry, how is GreenMech keeping pace with changing demands? Although the “No Burn” rule has been around for a long time, we still have customers that have only just starting to look into the alternative methods of wood and green waste disposal. Chipping, shredding and use of the residual waste has moved on, and our business has grown in parallel. On the back of consumer demand, in recent years we have introduced more petrol-powered machines into our range and with our latest release, the EVO 165 range, we also looked at further reducing noise output. By introducing an additional fan to provide extra air into the system, and a new lined bonnet, the EVO has become one of the quietest chippers on the market – which is particularly important for those carrying out work in residential areas.

We have witnessed a global pandemic never seen before. How is GreenMech coping with the challenges set by the Covid-19 crisis? How did it affect the supply chain and manufacturing of your products and how have issues been overcome? Like all companies we have had to balance the safety and wellbeing of our team, with the financial aspects of the business. Very quickly after news began circulating about an imminent lockdown, ten of our main component suppliers closed which left us no alternative but to go into lockdown ourselves. We went down to a skeleton team to look after parts, technical support, sales and administration and because different countries went into lockdown at different times, we thankfully continued to see orders from some of our international partners. Here, many of our customers decided to use the additional time they had to service and refurbish machines, so our parts department saw a consistent flow of orders.

What do you feel is the company’s unique selling point that has helped in its success? The appetite to design and develop new products has been our biggest asset, along with the continued desire to manufacture all of our products under one roof. This has given rise to a number of industry-leading innovations including our independently adjustable, patented SAFE-Trak system and round disc-blade chipping technology.

Can you tell us about any forthcoming developments with GreenMech and if and when any new products will be released to the market? Stage V engine implementation across the range remains our main focus, however, we do also have a few new products up our sleeve. If you want to find out what we are launching, we would encourage people to come and see us at the many trade shows we attend such as the Salonvert, GaLaBau and APF Forestry Machinery events.
The latest offering from the STIHL professional blower range, breezed onto the market in June. The STIHL BGA 200 cordless blower, steps into the shoes of its predecessor the BGA 100. With a maximum air speed of 84 m/s and an air throughput of 941 m³/h, it allows professional users to clear large areas with ease.

Once the battery is on the back (using the backpack) the BGA 200 is exceptionally easy to handle thanks to the comfort carrying system. This innovative feature allows the tool to be used in different ways depending on the application; handheld in confined working areas or suspended in the carrying system for larger-scale cleaning work.

With a blowing force of 21 Newton, STIHL’s new BGA 200 cordless blower is the most powerful in the STIHL range (reportedly 20% more than the BGA 100 cordless blower) and features a high air speed for coping with wet leaves and other heavier debris - such as shingle that has escaped the driveway. The blowing force has three different settings that can easily be selected by the operator as required using an ergonomically situated rocker switch. An additional boost function calls up the maximum power of the tool.

And if working in communal areas such as on a housing estate, there is little risk of getting complaints from residents - the low-noise operation – sound power level of 93 dB(A) – means the blower can be operated without restriction in noise-sensitive areas, and an added bonus is that the operator doesn’t need ear plugs!

The blowing force has three different settings, which can easily be selected by the user via a selector switch. Furthermore, the user can easily adjust the length of the nozzle to meet different requirements and operating situations with the help of a quick adjustment system.

**Modular battery system**
A 36V lithium-ion battery from the STIHL PRO cordless system supplies the energy required to operate the BGA 200. Batteries can be carried either by a belt bag or a backpack system (STIHL AP series). Alternatively, the STIHL AR series backpack batteries with their high energy content are available for all-day use. The connection is made simply by a connecting cable via a socket on the blowing unit. Carrying the battery close to the body on the belt or the back reduces the weight of the tool to be carried and makes work noticeably more relaxed.

www.stihl.co.uk

Review by **Paul Walsh**
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Free BL4025 40V Max battery eligible for redemption with all D101, D102 and D103 suffix models. Claims can be made between 1st July - 30th September 2020.
makitauk.com/redemption
Maximum blowing capacity

Husqvarna 525BX is a powerful, well-balanced, handheld blower designed for full-time professional use. Clearing debris and leaves proves no problem for landscapers with the 525BX, thanks to the blower’s high-performing X-Toq® engine, along with its unique fan and housing design which provides maximum blowing capacity and blowing force when in use. In addition to this, the blower features an adjustable tube length to ensure best ergonomics in demanding areas and around obstacles.

The 525BX is easy to use and features Smart Start®, resulting less resistance in the starter cord and less pulls for easy starting, cruise control for optimum handling, plus a specially designed fan housing which ensures air stream is in line with the handle to ensure excellent maneuverability.

Vacuum blower

Makita’s DUB363 Twin 18V blower is a powerful and versatile machine. With blower and vacuum functions to choose from, it is suitable for a wide range of tasks. Available as a body only (DUB363ZV), or with twin-port charger and 2 x 5Ah batteries (DUB363PT2V) or twin-port charger and 2 x 6Ah batteries (DUB363PG2V), these high spec’ models includes Makita’s Twin 18V technology and brushless motor, making the DUB363 an incredibly powerful and durable machine.

Powered by two 18V batteries (which work in series to supply energy to the powerful 36V DC motor drive system), the DUB363 produces power equivalent to a 25cc class engine blower, both in blower and vacuum applications. The brushless motor also means this machine can deliver high air volume (13.4 m³/min) and velocity (65m/sec).

For ease of operation, the DUB363 has a cruise control lever that locks the variable speed trigger at the desired power level to keep output consistent. Constant speed control is also included. In addition is an in-built shredding blade within the fan so that when the machine is used in vacuum mode, this will mulch down any materials collected – maximising space in the 50L collection bag.

The DUB363 blower also achieves precise, targeted vacuuming or blowing due to the three-stage telescopic nozzle, that has an adjustment range of 100mm to suit the individual operator. It also produces low noise emissions (it has a noise sound pressure of 84.8dB(A) and noise sound power of 94.9dB(A)), so is ideal when working across occupied premises to ensure disruption is minimised.
SCH manufacture a wide range of blowers, leaf collection units, and accompanying trailers. Contact us today for a FREE brochure, or visit our website to find out more.
Why practicality is key for PPE

It is important to ensure that the right personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn for user safety and to minimise risk of injury for landscaping professionals. Here, Paul Hicks, Marketing and Product Manager at STIHL GB, offers some top tips on how to stay safe.

Clothing
With work carried out in different locations and weather conditions, it’s important that PPE is designed to meet the varying requirements landscaping professionals are faced with day-to-day. Protective clothing should be study and snug-fitting, as loose clothing can easily get caught on branches or moving parts of the tools being used.

As breathability, water resistance, flexibility and ease-of-use remain at the top of the list, STIHL has developed a range of fit-for-purpose PPE items suitable all year round, such as the ADVANCE x-vent jacket which features durable outer layers to help protect the clothing from wear and tear.

Additionally, the new ADVANCE X-Light and X-Flex trousers are both made from ultra-light AVERTICTM ProLite cut protection material (EN 381), 20% lighter compared to STIHL’s cut protective range. X-Light are available in Design A (front protection) whilst X-Flex are available in Design C (all round protection), tested in accordance with BS EN 381, made up of six protective layers without compromise on comfort or durability.

While carrying out any tree maintenance, it’s also important to wear appropriate foot protection. Safety boots with both chainsaw protection and steel-toed caps, help to prevent injuries from any falling objects. STIHL’s range of chainsaw boots are designed with cut protection over the entire front of the boot and the tongue to minimise the risk of injury.

Equipment
Depending on the tasks to be carried out PPE should be fit for purpose. Much of this will depend on the type of tool being used, for example with a petrol chainsaw full head, face, eye and ear protection should be used.

However, thanks to the reduced noise levels of some battery powered tools, ear defenders may not be required in some instances. In order to determine whether ear protection is required, landscapers should consider the sound pressure level of the tool you are using and the SNR (Single Number Rating) of the ear defenders attached to the helmet.

In line with the Health and Safety Executive, the acoustic pressure should be under 85 decibels to reduce the risk of injury. To work out the acoustic pressure on the ears, subtract the SNR value of the ear defenders from the decibel level of a machine. The decibel level of a machine can be found on the individual product pages on the STIHL website in the Technical Data section.

The ADVANCE range of helmets from STIHL includes face and head protection, and is ideal for landscapers carrying out tree maintenance. The ADVANCE X-Vent BT offers enhanced levels of safety for professionals as well as excellent noise-reduction, and also features integrated Bluetooth® headphones, allowing users to easily listen to music or communicate with other members of the team.

It is also incredibly comfortable to wear as has a low weight of around 380g and the helmet also has optimised balance to reduce fatigue. The helmet also features reflective strips on the top, sides and back so that those wearing it can be easily seen.

Preserving your PPE
Similar to any piece of machinery, PPE equipment should be regularly maintained to ensure end-user safety at all times. Clothing should be washed regularly on normal wash settings at temperatures up to 60°C. Air dry is always preferable as spin-drying can damage the protective layers in chainsaw trousers. For tougher jobs, a tablespoon of Grease solvent can help make heavily soiled PPE fresh again.

While the cut-retardant material should not be repaired or modified by anyone other than an approved specialist, the waterproof or comfort layers of the PPE can be easily fixed by anyone with a sewing kit. If the waterproofing needs improving, simply iron the jacket on the coldest setting to reactivate the hydrophobic coating.

To see STIHL’s range of PPE equipment visit www.stihl.co.uk

The Advance X-vent jacket
Kitted out in full PPE
Kioti tractor models prepared for the future

With the introduction of the environmental Stage V engine standards for all tractors above 25 Horse Power (HP) the Kioti range of tractors is ready to move forward and lead the way.

The change will see the introduction of a number of new exciting models. Kioti have many years of experience using the required technology. The first Compact tractor models using Common rail engines above 50 HP with DPF were introduced in 2012. Kioti engines have been running to quiet, economical and environmental friendly standards since this time.

For Kioti the new enhanced regulations are just a small step not the radical change required for other competitive makes.

As a brief outline a new model CK2630, using the reliable Kioti 3A165 engine will be introduced. This offers a tractor with a physical presence relative to its size – that is, the same as the existing CK3510 / 4010 but running at 25 HP to keep the purchase price low. The CK range will also increase from the existing 40HP to include 45 and 50 HP models. All models are available either with open platform rollover protection structures (ROPS) and factory cabin versions with air conditioning. The customer also has the choice of Mechanical and hydrostatic (HST) transmissions.

Additional new standard features for the CK tractor range are grammar seats, cruise PTO, adjustable steering wheels, stationary PTO, independent PTO and optional front fenders.

HST 45HP and 50 HP models available from late 2020
The larger DK tractor model range will also grow. Currently HST transmission is available only on the 60HP ROPS and cabin models. New HST 45 and 50 HP models will be available from late 2020 / early 2021. The cabin will be the spacious and quiet factory cabin that you expect from a Kioti Product. Enhanced lift capacity will also feature giving 1700 kg lift at the link arm ends.

New features include Stationary PTO
As well as the changes to the engines Kioti have taken the opportunity to enhance the basic specification for these new models. New features will include stationary power takeoff (PTO), grammar seats, tilting steering wheels, independent PTO, transparent de oilers and cruise PTO. Optional front fenders will also be available.

All tractors will be covered by the Kioti 5 year 3000 hour warranty.
Kioti use the phrase “Run ahead of the Pack!” the introduction of the new models means this statement is as relevant now as when it was first introduced.

For more information visit: https://kioti-uk.com

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Isuzu complies with Euro emissions

Isuzu Truck (UK) Ltd supplies commercial vehicles from 3.5t GVW up to 13.5t GVW to the UK market.

All their vehicles comply with Euro 6 emissions and can tow up to 3.5 tons and come with a three-year unlimited mileage warranty and Isuzu Assist.

The ‘Grafter’ at 3.5t (N35), winner of the ‘Best Builder’s Truck’ for eighth year running, and the ‘Light Truck of the Year’ at the Great British Fleet Awards 2020, is a robust and reliable vehicle.

Features of the 6d Temp N35 Grafter:
• 2 engine variants: 120PS (1.9 Litre) or 150PS (3.0 Litre)
• Manual or semi-automatic gearboxes
• Available with single and twin rear wheel configurations

At 7.5t (N75), these trucks have long been admired for their impressive payload carrying capacity. Their physical footprint is smaller than the European manufacturers’ 7.5t vehicles and their compact dimensions are suited to urban and rural operations.

The N75 range:
• 150PS (3.0 Litre) or 190PS (5.2 Litre)
• Manual or semi-automatic gearboxes
• Suitable for all body configurations
• Tachograph and Operator’s licence required

Isuzu also supply pre-built ‘Driveaway’ vehicles. The range of tippers, dropsiders and utilitrucks is very popular at 3.5 tonnes GVW. Box, curtainsiders, tippers and dropsiders variants are available at 7.5 tonne GVW.

Go to vehicle for arborists

Isuzu trucks are also the standard ‘go to’ vehicle for arboriculture in the UK, according to leading company Bartlett Tree Experts, who has recently added a further five new Isuzus to its nationwide transport fleet.

Rating the brand, Richard Trippett, UK and Ireland division manager at Bartlett Tree Experts says: “The big appeal for us is that they are completely reliable, very rarely breaking down. The drivers find them easy-to-use and they are very popular with our teams, who think they are perfect for our type of work. They also have the professional look that we strive for.”

“Having operated Isuzus for an incredibly long time, we know that they provide us with the optimum fuel consumption returns that we expect, as well as giving us really good payload. This makes them more than capable of handling all the work that we do. We have also noticed that, progressively, the Isuzu truck range has really developed over the years and today, we believe that the Isuzu Grafter, for example, is close to being the absolute perfect truck for arboriculture operations at 3.5 tonne GVW.”

“The Bartlett name is synonymous with Isuzu’s long history here in the UK, having been a customer of ours from the very early days. The strength of this association is based on the continuous, reliable service provided by its Isuzu trucks from day one and it is a relationship that continues to grow successfully, and progressively, each year,” says Lee Tansley, national fleet sales manager, Isuzu Truck UK

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Across the UK, **Euroflor** has been colouring the countryside and providing food for pollinating insects. Here are some of their projects

**Broxtowe Borough Council**
This local council decided it needed to find ways of saving money and reducing its carbon footprint. From this starting point, they looked at more effective ways of managing their seasonal bedding to save money and, more importantly, to improve the local environment.

Hugh Turrell, the Council's Technical Horticultural Assistant stated: "To achieve these objectives, many of our seasonal bedding schemes were changed to Euroflor Urban flower meadow seed mixtures, which resulted in fantastic displays that lasted all summer. Hall Om Wong open space, received a very positive public feedback and we hope to extend this scheme to other areas around the Borough next summer; These will include areas of highway verges as well as parks, open spaces and other areas that have been neglected with the objective of bringing them back to life."

By incorporating Wildflowers areas around our Borough, it has helped boost pollen and nectar availability for our declining pollinator population and as we are all aware these wildflowers are meant for our environment after all!"

**Bolton at Home (Sheltered Housing), Bolton Lancashire**
"In partnership with Glendale, Bolton at Home has planted more than 20 Euroflor wildflower meadows that have brought additional colour, interest and insects to our estates," states Ceri McHugh of Bolton at Home. "And we have received lots of positive comments from residents, some of these include 'we have been lucky to have wildflowers on our street this year, they are stunning', 'it's been lovely watching the flowers grow and looks so bright in these strange times and helped keep spirits up' and 'they are absolutely beautiful and are giving so much pleasure to both the elderly folk in the bungalows and the families on our street,' continues Ceri.

Ceri goes on to say: "We will be using Euroflor seeds again for more wildflower meadows next spring."

**Billericay council, Essex**
Lake Meadows, a popular and extremely well-visited park in the heart of Billericay, Essex, has been receiving much public praise for a flower meadow sown with a Euroflor seed mix called 'Sarah Bouquet', which provides height, colour and a prolonged flowering period.

"We have been overwhelmed that so many park users have commented on how amazing the flower meadow is and how much they have enjoyed it," say the Friends of Lake Meadows, a group of volunteers and supporters who work together with Basildon Council to maintain and develop the park.

Park users have used comments like "stunning" about the flower meadow adjacent to the lake.

For more information on Euroflor visit [www.euroflor.co.uk](http://www.euroflor.co.uk)
Autumn sowing for spring showing

The Perennial Choice

There are now eleven perennial Euroflor mixtures recommended for autumn sowing that not only provide wonderful colour displays during the following spring and summer, but also attract pollinating insects.

Autumn sowing can take place from August through to October for flowering the following spring and summer.

Euroflor seeds are available in an Autumn Discovery Box of 10 x 50g foil sachets (either single or a combination of mixtures) to provide the opportunity to try out different colour combinations and growth habits. One kilo packs are also available.

At a typical mid-range sowing rate, a 50g sachet will cover approximately 12.5 sq.m.

All mixtures are available to view on the Euroflor website (see below).

For more information log on to: www.euroflor.co.uk
Meadowscape Pro™ is an enhanced pre-seeded growing medium for professional wildflower establishment.

- Limited site preparation required
- Low time and machinery costs
- Exceptional levels of seed germination
Crail Golfing Society praises BLEC Multi-Seeder for ‘no disruption’ overseeding

As play returns to Crail Golfing Society, a new BLEC Multi-Seeder 1600 is going to be key to delivering overseeding without disruption. The two 18-hole links courses – Balcomie and Craighead – are notoriously firm and dry creating challenging conditions for effective seed to soil contact. However, Golf Course Manager Bob Meikle says the size and weight of the BLEC dimple seeder makes it the ideal solution for optimum site-wide seed delivery.

“We initially demonstrated the 1.2m width version of the Multi-Seeder and were impressed straight away at the efficiency and cleanliness with which holes were created, and the accurate seed delivery system,” explains Bob, who has been at Crail for 28 years. “We figured that if we went to the next width up, we could overseed areas such as the greens with fewer passes as well as have additional weight to penetrate the firmer areas.”

“The Multi-Seeder being a dimple seeder was one of the biggest selling points,” he explains. “It is critical that whatever we do now maintenance-wise, that we don’t cause any breaks in play and the Multi-Seeder is fantastic at leaving very little disruption in its wake. We can pass over a green, then follow over with a turf iron and you wouldn’t know anything has been done.”

Since taking delivery of the Multi-Seeder 1600 from Henderson Grass Machinery in March, Bob and his team have conducted some recovery work on some weaker greens and tees on the Craighead course – utilising the time during lockdown to thoroughly test it out. “We’ve been experimenting with different moisture levels and transferring the weight between the two spiked rollers to alter the size of the hole produced. We are trying to incorporate more fescues into our tees, so by transferring the weight onto one roller we were able to create a bigger hole, ready to accept the larger, fescue seed.”

With the Multi-Seeder offering a 1.6m working width and non-PTO drive, Bob can quickly and accurately overseed areas both large and small – meaning some fairway overseeding, along with further work on the greens and tees is scheduled for the autumn.

Fountains with visual appeal

KAR UK has revealed that the new and improved J Series fountains by Kasco are now available.

From the 30 ft. high attention-demanding Redwood patterns, to the more elegant 2-tiered Linden patterns, each nozzle offers its own visual appeal providing a perfect focal point in any pond or lake. Designed with both beauty and function in mind, these fountains can improve overall water quality by increasing oxygen transfer.

The team of Kasco engineers have re-designed all 2HP models and above in the J Series fountains – resulting in easier assembly and higher performance.

Further improvements of the re-designed J Series fountains include:

- 5-year warranty standard on the new 3 - 7-1/2HP J Series
- New twist-and-lock nozzle design
- New patterns deliver cleaner, crisper more beautiful displays
- New bottom screen design decreases risk of clogging and easier to install
- Improved overall performance with no additional amp draw

All J Series Fountains come with multiple nozzles included in the price and can be paired with an optional light kit.

Kasco products are distributed in the UK by KAR UK.
PRO 34R improves the Tigers

Stuart Vause, head groundsman at Yorkshire’s Castleford Tigers RLFC, claims that his Dennis PRO 34R rotary mower has helped him make huge improvements to both the main pitch and also the training pitch.

In the five years that Stuart has been the head groundsman at Castleford Tigers, the pitch at The Mend-A-Hose Jungle Stadium has vastly improved - so much so, that Stuart has picked up the Professional Rugby Football League Grounds Team of the Year award twice in three years.

Stuart’s expertise coupled with the support and investment from the club has made this all possible. When he first arrived at the club, he inherited only an old mower designed for golf fairways which he used alongside his own personal equipment.

“The club has realised that if you want a good pitch then you have to have the correct equipment,” said Stuart. “We've spent quite a bit of money now, not just on equipment but on fertilisers, top-dressings and other products, and it has really made a difference.”

In terms of the machinery, the club’s first major purchase three years ago was a Dennis G860 cylinder mower. After reporting fantastic results from the G860, Stuart decided to continue with the Dennis brand and has since purchased a Dennis PRO 34R rotary mower.

“I needed a mower which would serve a few purposes,” said Stuart. “Recently, I have decided to put a lot more focus on the training pitch so I wanted a mower that would provide a fantastic finish but one that would also assist with other tasks such as cleaning up both pitches after use. The PRO 34R seemed to tick all the boxes.”

The Dennis PRO 34R is a 34” (860mm) rotary mower which has been designed to help groundsmen achieve an aesthetically pleasing appearance and desired playing surface. It is ideal for sports pitches and lawns producing the enviable ‘Dennis Stripes’ while a powerful vacuum flow collects debris quickly and efficiently.

The angle of the cutting deck and twin blades can be easily adjusted using a single ‘click adjuster’ ensuring the mower is suitable for changing conditions and meeting groundsmen’s requirements.

“The PRO 34R is my main mower for the training pitch and I’m now in a routine where I’m cutting regularly with it,” he said. “In the past twelve months since I’ve been using it, the sward has really thickened and the surface has significantly improved. The finish is so good – it is just like a cylinder mower and the quality of cut is the best I’ve ever seen on a rotary mower. You can also cut and collect with it in the wet which is a big benefit.”

“On the stadium pitch, I use both the G860 and the PRO 34R,” continued Stuart. “I will cut with the G860 and then use the PRO 34R to clean the pitch up after the games. It literally picks everything up and it is surprising how much the grass box holds.

“It is an ideal mower, especially as it is just me here. It has a wide cutting deck and various speed settings so I can get the job done quickly which is great if I am up against time or the weather. I tend to use it on a speed setting of 4 but I can always slow it down slightly if I want to take a bit more time.

“The PRO 34R is also incredibly easy to use. There is no time-consuming setting up and you can adjust the height of cut in no time at all. Ultimately, it is an incredibly simple and effective machine which you can rely on. In some way I like to think that the playing surfaces have played a little part in the team’s success over the last few years and has helped them to play the way they want to play. We are also unbeaten at home this year and the win percentage has been high. Long may that continue!”
Petrol wins over diesel

Weston Ground Maintenance recently took delivery of a 31HP petrol SCAG Turf Tiger 52, acquired to carrying out contract to cut verges, greens, sports pitches, Housing Associations lawns and pleasure gardens in the Stafford area.

Owner Dave Bill explained that over the years he has built up a picture of his ideal machine and, when the time came for a new purchase he took the advice of friend in another grounds maintenance company who said “try SCAG – they’re bulletproof”.

He had a machine demonstration by Dominic Mason; petrol was the engine of choice and Dave chose to have the mulching kit for efficiency and a striper kit for the best finish. The machine is the first of the new Vanguard 31HP high efficiency petrol engine powered SCAG machines sold by STM Co Ltd.

This engine is an excellent example of how petrol is competing against diesel in this market and Dave confirms a saving of 1.5 litres of fuel a day. A further bonus is that the SCAG STT does not leave marks on the ground on turning as it is so easy to manoeuvre.
Waterscapes’ irrigation expertise features at Television Centre

Designed in 1949, the Grade-II listed BBC Television Centre was the hub for television broadcasting. When five divisions of the BBC were relocated in 2007, the centre was sold to developer Stanhope and transformed into a mixed use development featuring residences, offices, studios, restaurants, leisure facilities and a hotel. Here, we report on the irrigation systems integral to the landscaping of this scheme.

The irrigation system for this award winning redevelopment of the BBC Centre at White City, London was designed by Waterscapes, who were appointed by landscape design architects, Gillespies. The project required careful selection of the most suitable irrigation products to meet the demands of the varied landscapes at the centre. Having also been appointed by the landscape contractor Gavin Jones Limited, Waterscapes worked with them to manage the time critical installation phases of the project. In November 2019, Gillespies were awarded with the accolade of Best Landscape Architecture Project for the Television Centre at the AJ Architecture Awards.

Gillespies and Gavin Jones had every confidence in Waterscapes’ ability to design and apply different forms of irrigation to suit the rich variety of plants, shrubs, trees and lawns within all the different secluded, shaded and open landscaped areas.

“The attention to detail shown by Waterscapes, their professionalism and choice of the highest quality irrigation products were key to the success of the project,” says Mike Veness of Gavin Jones.

The public forecourt and terraces lead to the dramatic Helios Courtyard with private homes and vibrant landscaped gardens. From there, residents can access the Crescent with its apartments and fully planted gardens. For projects such as these, featuring diverse planting schemes with differing irrigation requirements, Waterscapes specifies Rain Bird irrigation technology, supplied by distributor LWS. “Rain Bird offers the most extensive and compatible range of irrigation products from any single manufacturer,” says Waterscapes’ Managing Director, Paul Jeffery.
Waterscapes’ irrigation plan featured over 70 different zones within, so the ideal control system was Rain Bird’s ESP LXD controller. It has a capacity of up to 200 stations and with centralised control allowed Waterscapes to set individually timed overnight automatic irrigation programs for the zones.

Water conservation was a critical consideration. The ESP LXD’s sensor decoders and software provide in-built flow management to calculate optimum flow rates. FloManager manages the total system flow rate by dynamically selecting one or more stations that operate simultaneously to use the full capacity of the water source. By operating the irrigation system at peak flow capacity, the time it takes to irrigate the whole site is shortened and pumping power costs are reduced.

FloWatch can monitor and log the system in real time with a flow sensor and records the nominal flow rate of each station. If a high or low waterflow condition is detected, the controller follows steps configured by the user to diagnose the issue and, if necessary, shut down the problem valve or water source.

Around 6000 metres of surface Dripline irrigate densely planted ground cover and shrubs. With its choice of coil lengths and flexibility for tighter turns, it was the ideal choice for easy installation. Over 300 sprinklers, including rotary nozzles for the lawns, are also featured. The design of the high efficiency rotary nozzles results in lower water demand compared with many other types and this enabled Waterscapes to reduce pipe sizes and bring down the capital cost for the project. More than 50 Rain Bird XB point-source low flow emitters were specified to irrigate the footballs of young specimen trees and ensure the correct level of irrigation at the critical stage of their life-cycle.

Installation took place over a number of phases of occupation, with a particular phase only going live when complete and before the next one commenced. This ensured a well managed, on-schedule project working to tight deadlines. Achieving this also entailed managing work schedules closely with Maylim, responsible for the hard landscaping including, retaining walls, planters, kerbs, drainage and pipework. Initially, a temporary pump system was set up where the irrigation controller was installed before the main plant room in the basement of the Television Centre was later built.

*Photographs courtesy of Gillespies.*
Adapting to changing demands

The science of turf management is one that is ever-changing, with environmental factors changing how we conduct routine tasks and the tools available to complete them. Global warming and its resulting weather patterns are prominent talking points once again, whilst changes in chemical legislation and pressure for increased sustainability are all under the spotlight of facilities nationwide. We speak with a number of industry suppliers and manufacturers on the ways they’re responding to the changing industry demands.

“Undeniably, the availability of chemicals is causing a huge shift in the management of disease and pests,” says Nick Darking of Charterhouse Turf Machinery. “Without chemical solutions freely accessible to deal with problems such as worm casts, the sector is turning to cultural remedies to keep on top of them.”

A major headache for greenkeepers and grounds managers alike, worm casts cause issues not just for appearance, but for play and maintenance – providing prime space for weed seeds to germinate. “Keeping the surface clear of leaves and debris such as grass clippings it a great place to start. As a source of food for the worms, it brings them to the surface and leaves casts in their wake.”

In response, Redexim introduced the Top-Brush – a 6m wide triple-deck poly-brush to rid the surface of worm casts, organic matter and dew. “Its size makes it ideal for large areas such as fairways, where casts can be more common. Because the brushes can rotate in or against the direction of travel, it can also be used to remove lateral growth and stand the plant upright - contributing to better airflow into the canopy and a cleaner quality of cut.” The Top-Brush is an effective method of incorporating topdressing material – another way of actively minimising worm cast occurrence. “Increasing the sand content improves the growing environment and dries out the soil profile, reducing worm populations and makes any casts that do appear, easier to disperse.”

The reduction in curative chemical availability has been a game-changer, too when it comes to disease management – limiting the option of reactive fungicide applications. Using preventative fungicides to control Fusarium Patch (Microdochium nivale) will continue to be an essential tool in the turf manager’s armoury. However, taking a longer-term, strategic view of turf disease management and producing a grass plant that is strong and more resistant to disease, is important now more than ever.
“Headland Amenity started to explore this area in 2007, carrying out annual trials at the STRI,” explains Andy Russell, the company’s Sales Director. “The result is a number of disease management strategies, which focus on the timely application of nutrients to maximise plant health going into and during, the main disease periods. Headland’s ‘20-20-30’ tank-mix is now a proven strategy which uses preventative applications of liquid plant health products which work together to strengthen the plant, reducing the need for curative chemical applications, thereby lowering costs by up to 50% compared to using fungicides alone.”

The latest approach utilises the ‘20-20-30’ mix of Liquid Turf Hardener, Turfite® Elite and Seamac® ProTurf Fe, together with Mantle – a water-soluble micronutrient formulation containing manganese, zinc, magnesium and Harpin Plant Elicitor. Trials conducted in 2018/19 demonstrated an excellent reduction in active Microdochium nivale compared to the untreated control. Andy adds, “To achieve optimum results, a combined approach of pesticidal and non-pesticidal treatments should commence in late summer/early autumn, weather dependant, and be combined with careful cultural practices.”

“One of many key practices that Turf Managers should be doing is keeping surfaces clear of thatch and/or organic matter,” says Vinny Tarbox of MTD Specialty Turf Products. “A thatchy surface that is moisture retentive not only reduces the movement of oxygen and nutrients, it also provides an ideal environment to harbour pathogens. The UltraGroomer™ cassette from our renowned TMSys™ features over 80 tungsten carbide tipped blades, spaced at 5mm apart, to reduce Poa ingress, minimise puffiness and prevent the build-up of organic matter. By improving the plants immediate environment, it then becomes more difficult for disease pathogens to take hold.”

Martin Lucas of GreenMech agrees that maximising light and airflow is crucial for optimising plant health. “Greenkeepers and Turf Managers should be surveying pitch and course surroundings and consider removing anything casting excessive shadows or restricting that vital airflow. It is undeniable that we are also experiencing a shift in our weather patterns, and as a result of this, are seeing an increase in the frequency of storms and resulting damage. Debris and fallen branches and brash should be cleared as soon as it is feasible, not only to allow play to resume but to reduce the damage caused to turf.”

The Environmental Protection Act, along with the Clean Air Act, considers the burning of waste as inappropriate - anyone found improperly disposing of waste risks being prosecuted and fined up to £2000. “Chipping is a fantastic way to quickly and easily remove unwanted material. The chip that is produced can then be used in other beneficial ways - as a weed suppressant on pathways and in flowers beds or scattered around trees to help with moisture retention in the summer months. Tree roots and overhanging branches should also be regularly examined as these can cause problems overhead or underground, and any dead, damaged or diseased wood should be disposed of.”

GreenMech have long been at the forefront of British built woodchippers with a range spanning over 20 models, designed to suit a variety of demands and year-round applications. Their latest model, the EVO 165, has looked at another environmental factor – noise pollution. “We worked on ways to reduce both sound power and sound pressure. For example, we added an additional fan to provide extra air into the system which allows for a lower standard engine operating speed, without sacrificing efficiency. This significantly reduces noise output and fuel consumption. Together with a new lined bonnet and GreenMech’s disc blade chipping technology, the EVO has become one of the quietest chippers on the market.”
The developments in battery technology over the last 10 years have also made massive strides in reducing the issue of noise. “With many facilities, such as bowling clubs and community sports pitches, based in residential areas battery powered equipment like the INFINICUT® pedestrian mower means that previous restrictions on maintenance times can be lifted” says Vinny. “The quiet and smooth operation of a battery as a source of power, is not only less harmful to the immediate environment, it also makes for a more pleasant overall user experience. The reduction in moving parts translates into a notable improvement in Hand Arm Vibration (HAV) levels and should also result in more reliable equipment.”

After considering fuel consumption, one should turn their attention to reducing reliance on water and chemical inputs, says Derek Smith of DLF Seeds. Larger 4turf® seeds contain more energy reserves for stronger, faster establishment and healthy plant development. Its larger root system and genetic stress tolerance also mean it requires less water during any drought-like conditions. It achieves strong growth and exceptional disease resistance without the need for large quantities of additional nutritional input – resulting in better looking turf with reduced expenditure on fertiliser and fungicide applications.

“We also recently introduced our latest generation of ProNitro® seed coating which has the addition of DLF’s Hydroactive Water Management Technology. New ProNitro® features a targeted combination of fast-acting and slow-release Nitrogen together with improved water distribution, which optimises the delivery of essential nutrients and moisture to the developing seedling – promoting sustainable water and nutrient usage.” In trials, ProNitro® coated seed contributed to a 34% increase in establishing plants, improved uniformity and sward density thereby reducing the invasion of Poa annua and broad-leaved weeds. The targeted nitrogen application system also reduces the leaching of unutilised fertiliser into the environment by more than 50%.

With the expectations of facilities to produce ever-better surfaces, it is reassuring that suppliers are working together with Turf Managers to provide them with the tools to overcome the environmental pressures that will only continue to grow in influence over our future maintenance programmes.
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