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Forecast for 2021

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EDITOR’S LETTER

What a year! It started out so positive as there was much to look forward to - trade events, product launches, RHS garden openings to name a few, many of which I’d saved the date in the diary to attend.

But Covid put an end to that! It is somewhat coincidental, yet fitting, that Makita UK is our cover star this issue as we draw a close to this turbulent year. Why? Because it was their trade event in early March that was to be my last press trip of the year. Both press and dealers had gathered for a two day jolly at Walton Hall in Warwickshire to test drive the manufacturers latest line of cordless power equipment for the outdoor market. While there was much talk at the event of the growing uncertainty of what Coronavirus would bring, I very much doubt anyone there envisaged 2020 would turn out this way. A couple of weeks later, we were in our first lockdown.

Yet, the landscaping and grounds care industry persevered. Decisions made, soon had to be changed. Events such as FutureScape, which was to debut at its new venue - EXCEL, London - in November, went virtual. Suppliers and manufacturers who would normally network at SALTEX and BTME, to then follow up leads with nationwide demonstrations, instead reached out to potential customers virtually. Early on in the pandemic, I spoke with David Withers, MD at Iseki-UK, who was not going to be beaten by a pandemic. He started filming virtual demonstrations, with family members behind the camera, to showcase the latest range of mowers and tractors, with great success. And trade organisations changed track - unable to meet their members in person or at shows, they continued to support via online conferences, webinars and virtual events.

So what is to follow in 2021? Vaccines are beginning to be rolled out, so light is at the end of the tunnel regarding the virus. But there is still uncertainty, not helped by our exit from the EU on January 1st. What the future holds is hard to predict, but we have tried to get a feel of what industry experts think in our Year Ahead feature on page 19.

In this issue, we also take a look at some of the best selling products on the market this year on page 28, and there is plenty more to read over the Christmas period from advice on renovating turf to the latest in irrigation.

I hope you all have a restful Christmas. Stay safe and I hope we all have a more prosperous and peaceful 2021.

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

Next issue copy deadline: 18 January, 2021. To advertise please email us at landscaper@sheengate.co.uk
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The finalists of the Association of Professional Landscapers annual awards have been announced.

Finalists for the Association of Professional Landscapers (APL) Awards 2021 were announced at this year’s virtual Futurescapes exhibition which took place in November. The awards recognise landscaping projects that show technical and horticultural excellence, and which show attention to detail, technical excellence and an overall level of quality.

This year 45 companies made it to the finals with 73 projects. They were announced on Thursday (19/11/2020) at Futurescapes by APL Manager, Phil Treymayne and APL Awards judge, Bob Sweet.

Both Phil and Bob commended the high standard of the entries this year despite the challenges faced by individual projects and the COVID pandemic.

In response to the continuing public health crisis and the resulting restrictions on the number of attendees at events, this year’s APL Awards ceremony will be held virtually. The decision was made with the health and safety attendees in mind.

Although different to the usual format, the awards will be free to attend and promise to be as exciting and celebratory an event as always. Using a specially commissioned events platform, the amazing projects entered into the 2021 Awards will be showcased and attendees will be able to enjoy networking opportunities and celebrate their hard work together.

See the full list of all the finalists online at www.aplawards.co.uk/2021-shortlist

For more information on the finalists or the virtual awards please visit www.aplawards.co.uk
BALI partners with Vectorworks UK

A new partnership between The British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and Vectorworks UK is set to save garden designer members more than £2,500.

The British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI), the leading trade association for UK landscaping professionals, has teamed up with BALI Registered Affiliate Vectorworks UK to offer garden designer members an exclusive membership benefit package worth over £2,500 per year, aptly named BALI Blueprint.

BALI is delighted to be working closely with one of the world’s leading Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Building Information Modelling (BIM) software providers, Vectorworks UK. The partnership sees BALI Associate and Registered Designer members gain access to an exclusive range of dedicated services, designed specifically for landscape professionals.

This unique package is tailored towards assisting learning and development of key design skills and knowledge of sketching, modelling, and documenting any size project using their world-class and award-winning Landmark software.

For Registered Designer members, there is BALI Blueprint+, a significantly upgraded package providing the perfect solution for any garden designer looking to hone their skillsets with this complete Vectorworks UK experience.

The BALI Blueprint package for Associate Designer members, in full:

- 30-day free trial of Vectorworks software. This includes any of its software packages, including its popular Landmark, developed specifically for garden designers looking for a simple all-in-one CAD, BIM, sketch, draw and illustrate solution.
- Free watermarked version of Vectorworks software for students for the duration of their studies, worth £2,445 per year if choosing the Landmark perpetual licence.
- 40% off a perpetual licence of Landmark for graduates, if purchased within 12 months of their graduation date. That’s a saving of £978 off the annual fee.
- Exclusive 5% discount off the price of a perpetual licence of the Landmark software for any garden designer who hires an apprentice. This is a saving of £122.75.
- 40% off a perpetual licence of the Landmark software for any garden designer who hires an apprentice. This is a saving of £122.75.
- Exclusive complimentary BALI Blueprint+ Bitesize lunchtime sessions, held on the last Friday of every month, with an industry specialist lasting 30 minutes. This is the equivalent of £450 in support time.

Commenting on the partnership, Vectorworks UK’s Landscape Specialist Katarina Ollikainen adds: “We are very excited about this opportunity to work together with BALI – the emphasis on further education is something we strongly believe in and want to support. To create the framework for a continuous dialogue with members will set the base for a deeper understanding on how to manage projects of all sizes. It will also help with the promotion of sustainable design and push the value of Biodiversity Net Gain and wildlife friendly decisions to the forefront of the design process. We will concentrate on best practices and workflows, as well as dive deeper into the understanding of how to produce precise drawings and 3D models, both for clients and for use on site.”

STIHL MD retires

Robin Lennie retires as Managing Director of STIHL Great Britain as his successor is announced.

Long-standing Managing Director of STIHL Great Britain, Robin Lennie, has announced that he will be retiring at the end of the year.

Robin joined the company in 1990 as Finance Director and Company Secretary and was promoted to Managing Director in 2008. Having studied Accountancy, Law & Economics at The University of Glasgow, Robin qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1978 and as an IOD Chartered Director in 2006.

Robin leaves STIHL Great Britain in excellent financial health and during his tenure as Managing Director, the company has increased turnover from £57m in 2008 to over £109m in 2019.

Robin retires with many exciting plans including exploring even more of the world with his wife and travel companion Liz.

STIHL Great Britain is delighted to announce the appointment of new Managing Director Kay Green. Kay has a successful track record in sales and marketing and joins STIHL from Hasbro UK Ltd where she is Country Manager for UK and Ireland.

Kay Green will join STIHL on March, 1st 2021 until which point Financial Director, Nick Burroughs will act as Interim Managing Director.
The David Colegrave Foundation (DCF) Scholarship Season is now open until 31 January, 2021. As part of the season, the £1,500 Ball Colegrave Sponsored Travel Scholarship is on offer to encourage the continuous professional development of young people in the horticultural sector.

The David Colegrave Foundation (DCF) is a registered charity supporting the development of students studying horticulture in the UK. It champions careers in commercial, production or retail ornamental horticulture by offering scholarships to future horticulturists.

This particular award funds travel across the UK and Europe in order to develop knowledge and experience in bedding plant production and marketing. An employee in the early stages of their career at a commercial bedding plant nursery, or a student studying horticulture with an interest in commercial bedding plants and travel, should apply.

Recent winner, Robert Perry, a Crop Technician Apprentice, used the scholarship to fund his place on an automation study tour while studying at Pershore College and working at Bordon Hill Nurseries. Of his visit to the Netherlands to visit leading bedding plant growers he says: "This scholarship allowed me to widen my view of growing techniques and machinery used to automate the whole process a nursery runs through while producing its product. Since going on the tour, I can look at automation from another perspective and am excited for future prospects in automating my workplace nursery more efficiently and with a larger range of tasks becoming automated.”

Danny Booth (pictured) won the award while working at Lovania and used his award to develop his growing knowledge and ability surrounding plug production and new plants. “This scholarship provided me with fantastic opportunities to meet people that are well established within the industry and form key relationships as well as gaining knowledge of a bigger picture within the industry. Without a grant like this, it would have taken me years to develop such relationships. I learnt a lot about different techniques and methods to save time and money, using different products and seeing better results,” he says.

Stuart Lowen at Ball Colegrave, says: “David Colegrave developed many great ideas in his business through his travel overseas, keeping an open mind to new practices and challenges in plant culture. This led David to introduce groundbreaking new product innovations and solutions within our industry. This Scholarship aims to support a like-minded individuals currently working within the commercial bedding plant industry, looking to extend their knowledge and experience through exploring horticulture across the UK and Europe.”

DCF Scholarship season is open now until 31 January 2021.

www.davidcolegravefoundation.org.uk

Danny Booth
STIHL launches new-look connected app

Offering fleet managers more visibility and control over the usage of connected tools, STIHL has announced a new Connected app.

With a new streamlined design, fleet managers can easily find the data they need from the STIHL Connected homepage, which provides an overview of the fleet of tools as well as model and ownership information. From the homepage, users can also quickly and easily access information on machine running time and maintenance schedules.

To help improve efficiency and minimise downtime, the maintenance page is where fleet managers can easily see which tools are due for servicing. It is also where they can access the maintenance history, making it easier to effectively plan based on the tool availability, as well as minimise downtime by ordering spare parts ahead of time.

One of the new features available to users is the “nearby” function, which shows users the tools that are in their immediate vicinity, as well as allowing them to view the last known locations of the devices on a map. STIHL Connected comprises four central system components; STIHL Smart Connector, which is attached to the tool, STIHL app which connects to the STIHL cloud and STIHL connected portal. When used in conjunction, STIHL Connected enables professional users to easily analyse key machinery performance data that can be used to not only improve daily work processes, but also help achieve optimal task scheduling for an even more efficient team.

STIHL Smart Connector is easy to install and transmits the working time data via Bluetooth to a smartphone or tablet and then the cloud, giving users universal transparency about where power tools are being used and their current status.

The smart technology has been introduced by STIHL so professional users can ensure that their power tools are reliably ready for operation, leading to time and cost savings. The new STIHL Connected app is currently available to download free for Android and iOS on the app store.

BIGGA to support biodiversity on UK’s golf courses

The British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) has established a formal relationship with The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and The R&A existing partnership, to explore collaborative opportunities to increase awareness and support for biodiversity conservation on golf courses.

A new relationship that will help facilitate mainstream wildlife conservation on golf courses, by promoting best practice and providing inspiration for greenkeeping teams who would like to promote biodiversity at their golf facilities has been established by BIGGA and the RSPB & The R&A partnership.

RSPB Business Conservation Advisor, Dr Marie Athorn, will be running presentations at BIGGA educational events, including Continue to Learn, to offer help and advice to greenerkeeping teams, who want to make the most of the ecology on their golf courses.

The relationship and the BIGGA platform will also be used to raise awareness and encourage participation in partnership case studies and research, such as trialling management of nature-based solutions. BIGGA will also support the RSPB and The R&A in achieving the partnership’s goals by providing support whenever possible, such as by hosting guidance notes on the BIGGA website.

James Hutchinson, BIGGA’s Membership Services Manager for Ecology and Sustainability, says: “We consider this relationship to be of tremendous importance as BIGGA, The R&A and the rest of the golf industry seeks to alter the perception of those who believe golf courses as detrimental to the environment. “Golf courses constitute large areas of mixed habitats, from areas of trees, heathland, wildflower meadows, wetland habitat and even bunkers and, as such, they play a hugely important role in preserving the UK’s under threat wildlife species. “Turf professionals everywhere have an awareness of their role as stewards of the wider landscape and we’re looking forward to working closely with The R&A and RSPB to promote best practice and in turn provide more habitats for Britain’s wildlife to enjoy alongside the nation’s golfers.”

Dr Marie Athorn, RSPB Business Conservation Officer, adds: “It’s great that BIGGA are giving their full support to the partnership. The partnership, funded by The R&A, has a fantastic opportunity to encourage and facilitate nature conservation on golf courses. “With the support of organisations like BIGGA the partnership can reach the passing knowledge and capable greenkeepers across the UK to showcase the amazing work they are already doing for nature and provide the expertise to those who want to start on their journey to helping nature on their golf course.

“With over 3,000 golf courses in the UK the golf industry is in an amazing position to support nature conservation on a landscape scale. With many golf courses being located in close proximity to densely populated areas, they, if well managed for nature, can provide connectivity across an increasingly urban landscape. Regional BIGGA networks provide an exciting opportunity for golf courses and their greenkeepers to work together to support nature, whether that be a particular species in decline or to restore habitat that supports common and rare species alike.”

Also commenting on the new initiative Steve Isaac, The R&A’s Director of Sustainability, says: “The partnership between The R&A and the RSPB has set out a number of key work areas that will contribute towards the protection of habitats and wildlife on golf courses across the UK. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the health benefits golfers and other users of golf courses gain from enjoying recreation surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature. However, the aims of the partnership will only prove successful and enhance the natural value of golf courses if they are delivered on the ground. Greenkeepers will, obviously, play a vital role in this and the relationship between the partnership and BIGGA provides exciting opportunities we all have for golf and nature. We are delighted that BIGGA has joined this initiative and feel that this reflects the values that many greenkeepers put into practice as the custodians of wildlife on our golf courses.”

GreenMech rationalise dealer coverage in South of England

GreenMech Ltd have announced a rationalisation of their dealer network in the South and South East, which will see an expansion in coverage area for existing dealer GA Groundcare Ltd, with effect from 1st January 2021.

Operating from their purpose-built depot in Poulshot, Wiltshire, GA Groundcare Ltd will become exclusive to the GreenMech franchise, offering supply and support across the full pedestrian, road-tow and tracked chipper portfolio – together with stocking a comprehensive range of GreenMech replacement parts. Having originally been appointed in 2017 for the counties of Berkshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, the success of the partnership sees their territory extended to cover Dorset, Somerset, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.
Hall of Fame award for Arsenal groundsman

The Ground Management Association (GMA) recently announced that Steve Braddock, Head of Grounds Management at the Arsenal Football Club training centre, enters its Industry Hall of Fame.

Steve becomes the second recipient of the award, joining the late Eddie Seward MBE who is the former Head Groundsmen at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club. Steve has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to sports turf management across professional football, including his innovation and leadership that has helped attract new talent and upskill other grounds staff.

Steve’s influence has also fast-forwarded the careers of many professional sports turf managers maintaining professional sports surfaces across the globe, and he has also supported many grounds volunteers and communities in his work so far.

Steve found himself “in a state of shock” when informed that he has entered the GMA Hall of Fame, especially “considering the contribution that Eddie Seward made to the sector over the course of his career”.

Steve said: “I would of never have been able to achieve this without the backing of Arsenal Football Club, John Beattie and Arsène Wenger. They showed incredible belief in all I do, which has enabled me to raise the influence of grounds management and also train and mentor staff in the way I felt right.

In more ordinary circumstances, the GMA would be hosting its annual industry awards this month at its trade exhibition, SALTEX. Despite this, the GMA is adding positive news to the agenda by celebrating Steve’s remarkable impact and industry influence.

Geoff Webb, CEO of the GMA explained that “it didn’t feel right to hold the GMA awards and judge grounds staff for their efforts this year, given the impact of the pandemic.”

“This year, grounds staff across the UK have had to contend with more than just the weather and budgets. The role of those who have the incredible skill and dedication when maintaining turf and making sport possible must not be ignored. We have exciting activity in the pipeline to celebrate everyone in our fantastic industry, across all levels, which we will be announcing in the coming months.”

Speaking about Steve’s award Geoff continued: “I am very honoured to add Steve to the GMA’s Hall of Fame. Steve is an inspiration to many in the sector and this unique honour is thoroughly deserved. Both Steve and his colleagues at Arsenal have constantly pushed the boundaries of what was possible, and their high-quality pitches are clear for all to see.”

Whilst working from home has been far from ideal for Steve, he still enjoys his “once-a-week dawn raid” where he can enjoy a peaceful walk around his pitches and maintain his fitness levels. Speaking about the honour, Steve said: “I will be forever grateful for such a nice and kind gesture at this very difficult time in my life.”

Professional lap-bar innovation from Cub Cadet

The award-winning design of the XZ5 Ultima series™ from Cub Cadet redefines the zero-turn mowing experience - with enhanced strength, re-imagined comfort and a best-in-class cut.

The latest steering lever lap bar technology combined with the extremely robust construction of heavy-duty components and high-performance engine makes the Ultima series the ideal professional machines for large lawn maintenance.

Powerful Kawasaki engines mean the machines reach up to 12 km/h, mowing up to 50% faster than front mowers and able to mow up to 12,500 m²/h.

Available with cutting widths of 50” and 54” the two professional machines put owner/operator comfort at the forefront of their design with individually adjustable seats and high backrests for fatigue-free working as well as ergonomic soft grips, rubber floor mats and exceptionally low vibration values.

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The range is ideal for mowing rolling hills and several obstacles up to 5 acres, with premium tyres, the largest in their class, that provide better traction and more stability and control.

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The Year Ahead
As 2020 ends in tiers, what are the prospects for 2021?
Jana Silver asks industry experts

While there are concerns around Covid-19 as an economical threat, there are likewise apprehensions about Brexit and the freedom of movement for the landscaping and grounds care industry professionals. Some traditionally physical events have been cancelled and replaced with virtual iterations. How will coronavirus reshape the trade show industry and will these ‘untypical’ trade show experiences assist in accelerating the landscaping and grounds care profession? I spoke to a number of industry suppliers and experts to get their views on the year ahead.

Richard Kay, Chairman, Green-Tech: “The Government has committed to many green infrastructure projects along with mass tree planting, which is great news for our sector. I believe that the saying ‘more digital than physical’ will be true and our market will have to make bigger use of websites and social media.

“Developers are seeing the value in landscaping and its having a positive impact on the built environment, people, places, well-being and development prices. Through the Covid-19 lockdown, people have benefited positively from parks and green spaces and they’ve appreciated their gardens. I’m sure we will see the love of lockdown gardening transcending into large and small garden projects across the country.

“Check your personal indemnity insurance as we are seeing renewal prices across all sectors increase without much notice. Use your membership benefits. Keep in touch with organisations like BALI, APL, GRO, HTA for the latest news in the market use your organisation as a reference point and if you need help, ask for it.”

Darren Taylor, Marketing and Communications Manager, BALI: “Membership of the EU has allowed UK businesses to enjoy frictionless cross border trade for many years, and the landscape industry is a significant importer of plants and plant material. As the UK will be seen as a third country in the eyes of the European Union from January 2021, UK-based businesses who rely on plants and plant material from the European Union are now having to negotiate new systems to ensure continuity of material. Together with flow of material, post-transition processes developed by the government include heightened measures to protect plant biosecurity; recent years have seen a significant increase in plant pests and diseases in the UK, and failure to implement measures to monitor material entering the UK could have a devastating effect on plants and trees.

“As an organisation BALI have worked hard to raise awareness of the changes and, where possible, collaborated with government and other trade associations to develop initiatives that strike a balance between commercial freedom and protecting the environment. BALI’s website contains detailed descriptions of the changes due from January 2021, and we look forward to working with the government to further develop biosecurity initiatives.”

Sue France, CEO, Pictorial Meadows: “There’s a lot of uncertainty in the industry - so we need a voice, clever PR and small investments in the landscape and public sector to avoid a shaky 2021. We rely heavily on imports through Europe and European partners are unsure about the strength of our relationship with them going into next year. The horticultural industry will suffer and it could mean a rise in cost and EU suppliers going elsewhere.”

Phil Tremayne, General Manager, Association of Professional Landscapers (APL): “There’s no doubt
there is going to be a challenging time ahead with the knock-on impact of whatever happens to the UK economy as a result of the pandemic. We are already seeing many products used within the industry being affected by price rises or shortages and this trend may continue as a result of EU Exit. Knowing that the horticultural industry will suffer as a result of EU Exit, the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) is lobbying Government on the regulations of cross-border trade, urging the Government to cut the likely increased costs and potential delays at border control. The APL will continue to support its members in whatever ways it can and we regularly canvas our members to establish the issues that concern them. I would strongly advise anyone to use their membership group for help and as a reference point. “Jim Croxton, Chief Executive Officer, BIGGA: “From Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, all grass-root sports ranges and facilities in England were forced to close after Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s new lockdown measures to reduce social contact. More than 250,000 people signed a petition to exempt golf courses and the rationale is that outdoor activities pose a low risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus. The fresh air and breeze makes you less likely to breathe in enough of the respiratory droplets containing the virus and with plenty of space between you and others, it’s a devastating blow for the golf industry. On average, golf courses received 30,000,000 more footsteps by the end of October 2020 even though two full months were lost to lockdown. Golf received a huge boom in participation because of furlough and the unavailability of other activities. We can expect to see more people enjoying the outdoors and more golfers in 2021 and golfers are more appreciative of the efforts of greenkeepers and groundsmen now than ever before.” “Due to the ongoing global impact of COVID-19, we made the decision not to host BTME in 2021. The health and wellbeing of our members, exhibitors and other attendees has always been at the forefront of our thoughts, making the cancellation of BTME undoubtedly the correct decision. 2020 was a learning experience for everyone and BIGGA is no different. We’ve offered virtual learning to our members and these events have been incredibly well-received, but there’s no substitute for face-to-face communication. The recent news about successful COVID-19 vaccines is incredibly welcome as we’re definitely missing out on the human contact side of things. BTME is a multinational event drawing delegates and exhibitors from all over the world and I don’t envision that changing post-Brexit, with the event due to return in 2022.” Allan Wainwright, UK and Ireland National Account Manager, Hozelock-Exel: “Despite turbulent trading conditions throughout 2020, major suppliers to the sector have used lockdown to prepare for the realities of Brexit. Compression sprayers manufacturer Hozelock-Exel reports healthy pre-order commitment by its UK wholesalers and distributors for the Cooper Pegler, Berthoud and Laser Industrie brands it markets here. We’ve brought forward delivery deadlines for some orders by a month from January to December and stock uptake has been encouraging in preparation for 2021, rising 30% on orders last year. Our UK wholesalers and distributors understand that they may pay tariffs on imported goods and are preparing accordingly.” Geoff Webb, CEO, Grounds Management Association: “With recent news, it’s likely that most organisers will be looking at the second half of 2021 to restart indoor and outdoor exhibitions – dependent on further Government announcements surrounding mass gatherings. Virtual events are currently on the rise, they provide an alternative route for businesses to connect with buyers, but the success of these are market specific. Our research found that less than 20% of respondents in the grounds sector would currently attend a virtual event. It is our hope that trade shows will be able to stabilise and return to pre-pandemic activity levels in the second half of 2021, but we also have to plan for every scenario. The safety and wellbeing of the grounds management community remains our top priority and we are working to deliver SALTEX with the protocols that may be in place as a direct result of Coronavirus, whilst creating the best experience possible. I am confident that SALTEX 2021 will provide a huge opportunity for our sector to regroup, reunite and celebrate.” Having spoken to a number of industry luminaries I have concluded that while the rest has been good for the turf, it’s safe to say that everyone is looking forward to getting back to normal. Most people are keen to forget 2020. It’s been a year of trials and tribulations. The insecurity surrounding Covid-19 and Brexit have meant that forward planning for nearly everybody has become a huge challenge. Due to the ongoing global impact of Covid-19, trade shows and exhibitions have been brought to a screeching halt and we’re missing out on the human side of what the industry gatherings bring. But while we wait for the return of face-to-face networking, people have come to realise the values of their gardens. There has been a huge increase of people searching for landscapers on social media and this can only be helpful to the whole industry.
Cleveland Gambetti has long recognised that customers need absolute precision and a sprayer engineered for the future. This lead Cleveland Alliances Ltd (the parent company of Gambetti Sprayers) to move the industry to new levels and design three new models to suit every requirement for the modern professional turf care operation. And, production of these models has now moved to the UK, allowing the company proud to announce a ‘Made in Britain’ status.

The models start with the ECO GOLF range. A tough, yet simple design, offering excellent quality, with a low price tag, featuring our new ‘Liquid Iron proof’ treatment, offering long life metal work protection. The machine features stainless steel spray lines, balanced controls and a really smooth three cylinder pump for accurate delivery of plant protection products.

Alternatively there is the standard high specification machine, the PRO GOLF. Cleveland Gambetti has always produced its ‘PRO’ range machine, but the model has just moved up a gear for 2021. This machine has a high capacity three cylinder pump, electric on/off and quad nozzles all fitted as standard.

In addition, two sets of the latest air induction nozzles are included. A brand new chemical induction hopper for fast filling and new design controls are also a major improvement. It features the liquid iron proof treatment too. Another great new feature is the standard fast fill hose pipe filling connection, which allows and operator to legally connect to an irrigation system for ultra fast filling. The top machine in the line up is the ‘PRO GOLF T-Spec’. This unique machine offers all the specification of the PRO GOLF, but with the additional features of electric controls, a hydraulically folding boom and an all new foam marker. Computer rate control and GPS are an option.

Cleveland Gambetti has lead the way in GPS on sprayers in the turf-care industry. The new mounted ranges are ready for total GPS integration, with new levels of pass to pass accuracy of 2cm when using GPS controlled nozzles! GPS is becoming much more affordable and through experience, the company has developed the correct receivers for working on fine turf giving total accuracy and control.

The range also comes with a three year construction warranty! Something unique on every machine is a QR code. Simply scan the code with a smart phone to get instant access to operators manuals, instructional videos and an easy to use parts list.

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The all new Cleveland Gambetti range offers the highest quality, the greatest ergonomics and the best support package available.

• Visit www.clevelandalliances.com or call 01361 883418 for more information.
Irrigation for gardens

Matthew Pearce from Access Irrigation provides tips on the best way to water garden landscapes

The turmoil of 2020 has proved how important a tranquil garden is to our inner peace of mind, providing a safe, secure and relaxing haven. With working from home set to continue, and people bitten by the gardening bug, always having the garden looking its best is now more important than ever.

Lush, verdant borders and thriving planters even in the height of Summer can be achieved effortlessly using highly water efficient irrigation systems. Incorporating an irrigation system into a landscape project not only helps the planting look great in dry weather, it also speeds up establishment and reduces plant losses.

The best way to water:

• Borders
  Many homeowners think that it is the lawn that benefits most from irrigation, but in actual fact it is the border where irrigation can make the most difference.

A large border will be planted with many hundreds if not thousands of pounds worth of plants. Regular irrigation will make a big difference, not only reducing losses, but allowing the border to reach maturity much more quickly.

There are two main ways of irrigating borders: drip lines or micro sprinklers. Drip lines are much more water efficient and can be placed under a mulch to make them invisible. Some driplines are designed to allow them to be buried a few inches under the soil, although this does cause more maintenance issues and the system cannot be connected directly to the mains water supply.

The alternative solution is to water using sprinklers placed in the border. These are easier to install into established beds, and when operating provide visual interest, however they are not as water efficient and can have problems with dry spots in the border, especially when the border becomes more established.

• Lawns
  For the maximum water efficiency, lawns can be watered with drip lines laid beneath the turf, but this is very time consuming to install and does present problems if the lawn needs aerating.

  The most common way of watering a lawn in using pop-up sprinklers located in the lawn itself. As the system operates the sprinklers rise out of the ground to water. There are two types of sprinkler; rotor sprinklers for large areas, where a single jet of water rotates slowly back and forth over a pre-set arc; and spray sprinklers which are designed for small areas. Spray sprinklers generally are very thirsty, but a new generation of spray sprinklers have come on the market which are much more water efficient.

• Baskets and Tubs
  Providing irrigation to tubs and baskets is fiddly, but well worth the effort as the small compost area allows the plants to dry out quickly. With a dripper in every pot and very slim pipework to connect everything together, a patio planting scheme can be discreetly watered several times a day – keeping everything looking vibrant.

• Trees and Hedges
  Trees and hedges need a lot of water and are very costly to replace, so it makes sense to install irrigation at the same time as planting. For hedges generally one or two lines of drip line are run along the base of the hedge with drippers set at a close spacing – typically 0.3m apart. With modern pressure compensated drip lines it is possible to achieve uniform drip rates over 200m long runs.

For small trees a necklace of drip line can be placed around the tree, again using a closely spaced drip line.

Control
  A wide range of battery and mains powered controllers are available. Battery technology has matured to the point that a battery will last a whole season and connection can be achieved via a Smartphone using BlueTooth.

  Mains powered controllers from Hunter now allow integration with Alexa and monitoring from anywhere in the world. Predictive watering programmes also ensure that watering increases and decreases in line with temperatures, ideal for the variable British weather.

A properly designed garden watering system using commercial quality equipment will provide years of trouble-free irrigation and keep the borders blooming and grass lush, all watered at the touch of a button.
IRRIGATION

Extras that build on effective irrigation control

By Peter Longman, Rain Bird Landscape Sales Manager
Northern & Central Europe

Thanks to the modularity that many manufacturers build into their irrigation products, landscape architects, contractors, consultants and users have the flexibility of systems that can be built up over time. The perception that automated irrigation systems use more water than they save is false and by employing a professional to specify the most appropriate solution, only the minimum amount of water will be needed to maintain the health of any landscape. This can cut the amount of water used for irrigation by as much as 30-60%.

Designing a new landscape should consider many factors. This may lead to the creation of separate irrigation zones and areas requiring less irrigation can be watered less frequently, whilst plants with more demanding needs can be grouped together. The investment in the landscape, the cost of maintenance, water conservation targets, available water pressure and soil type need consideration too. An irrigation system can then be designed using the most effective sprinklers, surface/ below surface drip irrigation and controller.

Controllers with in-built flow management automatically react to high and low water flow, shutting off valves individually or even an entire system based on preset programming. Flow sensors record the actual flow of every valve in the system, detecting high flow/ low flow or no-flow of water at each location, and act as an early warning to potential problems, allowing action to be taken. Rain sensors, soil sensors, weather stations and water meters can be part of a new system or retrofitted. Rain sensors stop the system from operating when it rains.

Rain Bird ESP-ME3 WiFi controller features flow monitoring and has compatibility with different makes of flow monitoring sensors and a delay feature postpones watering when irrigation is not needed. Soil moisture sensors use metal probes to measure moisture at the root zone and turn off the system when no additional water is needed. With connection to internet weather data, a smart controller automatically adjusts the watering schedule according to past and predicted conditions. This allows the controller to water plants optimally year round without needing to reprogram constantly. Information can be obtained on evapo-transpiration conditions and adjustments to the irrigation regime made automatically. Rainfall intensity can be monitored and compared to the soil infiltration rate to determine how much water reaches a plant's root zone.

Managing water pressure in an irrigation system is beneficial. If it is too high, products can be installed equipped with pressure regulating devices which can make significant water savings by the minute. In the USA, it is mandatory to have pressure regulation in the irrigation system to avoid overspray and misting which are inefficient.

Real time management of irrigation systems can be undertaken with central control systems such as the IQ4 platform. Combining controllers equipped with a communication cartridge allows water management tools to be enabled and reports to be generated. Multiple irrigation start times and independent programs can be set which allow for precise run times based on irrigation zones. Users can manage several installations from a centrally located PC or conveniently from a wi-fi enabled smartphone or tablet.

www.rainbird.eu
**Best in form**

From leaf blowers to wood chippers, excavators to aerators, we take a look at products that caught the eye of landscapers and groundcare teams across the country.

**Versatile mower**

A top seller this year from Etesia has been the Hydro 80 MKHP5 ride-on mower following the three years’ interest-free finance offer launched earlier in 2020.

The Hydro 80 MKHP5 can cut and collect in all conditions with the added benefit of a differential lock. The new model joins the popular Hydro 80 range and will give operators extra traction and stability on difficult, uneven and undulating terrain by reducing wheel spin, reducing damage to the grass and aid in cutting presentation.

The versatile mower also benefits from a mulching insert included as standard. The 80cm cutting width, 240 litre collecting box and impressive Kawasaki FS481H 11.7 kW engine give it the cutting performance and raw power to impress while operating.

www.etesia.co.uk

**Top seeder**

With a renowned reputation for its well proven seeding system, it is no surprise that 2020 has been another good year for the BLEC Cultipack Seeder. Popular with landscapers because of its accuracy and low ground pressure, the Cultipack eliminates the issue of tyre marks that are sustained with tractor-mounted seeders, making it particularly effective on sensitive ground.

This highly manoeuvrable pedestrian unit features a 55 litre hopper capacity and two front notched rollers, which crush lumps and make pockets for the seed to be delivered into. The seed is spread accurately across the full width of the machine (91cm), with the rear rollers splitting the shallow ridges and burying the seed in the top 12mm of soil – all while keeping surface disturbance to a minimum.

www.blecmachinery.com

**Power blower**

Husqvarna 525BX is a powerful handheld blower, designed for full-time professional use, which allows demanding tasks to be tackled with ease.

Clearing debris and leaves proves no problem for landscapers with the 525BX, thanks to the blower’s high-performing X-Torq® engine.

The 525BX is easy to use and features an adjustable tube length, cruise control and a specially designed fan housing to ensure excellent maneuverability. Furthermore, the 525BX offers comfort for landscapers when working long shifts due to the blower’s Low Vib® anti-vibration system.

Key information: Air speed: 70 m/s | Weight: 4.3 kg • Equivalent vibration level (ahv, eq) handle: 1.2 m/s² • Cylinder displacement: 25.4 cm³ • Price: £319.00 inc. VAT

www.husqvarna.com

**Vacuum blower**

The Makita’s DUB363PG2V blower benefits from Makita’s leading LXT battery technology and brushless motor – delivering outstanding performance similar to a 25cc class engine product and extended run times from two 6.0Ah batteries. The twin-port charger offers the fast charge times users need to maximise productivity.

As well as the blower function, the DUB363PG2V can be used for vacuum applications due to the shredding blade in the fan, making it suitable for a wide range of tasks all year round.

The DUB363PG2V also includes a range of additional innovative features that work to improve user comfort, safety and efficiency.

www.makituks.com

**Efficient aeration**

Aerating favourite, the Toro ProCore 648, has long been renowned for its innovative technology. Powered by a 23hp Kohler engine, the ProCore has a 48-inch aerating width, one of the largest in the industry, to ensure aeration is efficient and productive. With its wheels located in front of the aeration head, well out of the way of the coring path, you don’t drive over the fresh holes or run over the pulled cores from the previous pass, which makes clean-up easier, quicker and less labour intensive.

Reesink Turfcare is the sole Toro distributor in the UK for golf and sports fields equipment and irrigation products.

www.reesinkturfcare.co.uk

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**Top performer**

The demands of the domestic market this year has made the GreenMech pedestrian woodchipper range one of their top performing collections. Designed with the professional landscaper, arborist or green space manager in mind, the CS 80 and CS 100 combine usable power with compact versatility, making them the ideal choice for leisure applications and tasks in gardens and other spaces where access is restricted.

The entry-level CS 80 is powered by a 12hp Loncin pull-start engine and features an impressive 100mm chipping capacity that makes light work of timber, woody waste and vegetation. At just 760mm in width, this and the CS 100 – powered by a 16 or 18hp B&S Vanguard petrol engine - are small yet mighty workhorses, boasting a wide in-feed chute which enables large volumes of bushy material or timber to be quickly and easily processed by the two high-grade steel reversible blades.

www.greenmech.co.uk
Alpha power

A top seller this year from Pellenc has been the Alpha Range. The range sees two new batteries (P260 and P520) which can be directly fitted to the tools or fitted to a new harness.

Comprising the Helion Alpha hedge trimmers and the Excelion Alpha grass strimmer, two tools which use the latest on-board batteries, the 260 and 520, it was designed to bring together ergonomics and efficiency. With all of these features, the range has what it takes to convert the last of the professionals who are hesitant to abandon petrol powered tools.

www.pellencuk.com

Super-compact micro-excavator

The Kubota K008-3 micro-excavator continues to be extremely popular amongst landscaper operators, ideal for tough jobs where space is limited.

The K008-3 offers operators excellent digging performance, enhanced protection through a foldable rollover protective structure, and simple removal and replacement of attachments without any tools.

The compact nature of the excavator ensures the K008-3 can easily fit through most doorways, keeping transport to and from site quick and easy. A conveniently located toolbox under the drivers seat, as well as a fully opening engine cover, allows any maintenance tasks to be carried out efficiently, allowing the operator to focus on the job at hand.

www.kubota-eu.com

Backpack blower

The new STIHL BR 800 C-E is proving popular with landscaper operators and is STIHL’s most powerful backpack blower to date. With a blowing force of 41 N, the blower has been designed with both power and comfort in mind, allowing local authorities and contractors to tackle the toughest jobs with ease.

The BG 86 C-E is another STIHL model that landscapers have been sought-after. The hand held blower utilises STIHL’s innovative 2-MIX engine to reduce the amount of fuel lost during the charge cycle, resulting in more power and up to 20% lower fuel consumption than regular 2-stroke engines, as well as significantly reducing exhaust emissions.

www.stihl.co.uk

Suitably qualified

Paula Warman looks at the importance of qualifications within the landscaping industry and where to look to develop skills

“There are no formal requirements to be a landscaper, but most employers will expect you to have some horticulture knowledge and experience,” says the National Careers Service and this is where the problem lies.

As we head into a new year and new beginnings, we are touching on the importance and relevance of qualifications in the landscaping industry. For the soft landscapers, horticulturalists and garden designers, there are lots of courses and qualifications on hand to fulfill this need, easily found by looking on various search engines.

However for those looking to become a hard landscaping specialist this is an area that has not been truly filled and needs more work. With little to no formal qualification available in hard landscaping, unfortunately, it gives rise to rogue landscapers that do not install to British standards and ultimately leave the consumer with a poor quality job and a hole in their wallet.

So, where do you start when it comes to education and developing your skills? How do you attract the right client and prove you are far from rogue?

• Associations – British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and the Association of Professional Landscapers (APL) are key to the industry and maintaining standards. If a landscaper becomes accredited by one of these associations they have been through a rigorous vetting procedure of both installation standards and business practices. Which is key to show your client’s that you are reputable and skilled.
• Training Academy’s – there are training centres available up and down the country that offer courses in hard landscaping, paving installation, site setting out, artificial grass installation, resin bound installation and more. So there are opportunities to further develop your teams skills and gain more professional qualifications too. Talasey Training Academy (www.talasey.co.uk/talasey-training-academy) and The Landscape Academy (www.landscapacademy.co.uk) are examples.
• Courses – there are a multitude of courses that could help upskill you into other areas of the industry enabling you to add more services to your offering, as well as CPD (Continuing Professional Development) courses and workshops. CPD points ensure that you maintain and enhance the knowledge and skills you need to deliver a professional service to your clients. It also keeps you up to date with everchanging practices and developments in the industry. The Landscape Institute run a variety of CPD training courses (www.landscapeinstitute.org) and is the chartered body for the landscape profession.
• Manufacturer Led Schemes – many hard landscaping/stone manufacturers (for example natural stone pavers Marshalls and also Bradstone) have an approved installer scheme that you can become a part of. The benefits as an installer vary between manufacturers but the benefit of being a part of one of these schemes (or more) is to show potential clients that you install to the standards laid out by that manufacturer. It will also show again that your work is vetted and checked. Plus, they may also offer product specific installation training to their approved installers.

If you are looking for new talent to grow your landscaping business apprenticeships are a great path to take. The best places to look are local colleges in your area, The Association of Professional Landscapers (The APL) also run their own apprenticeship scheme.

www.pellencuk.com
Long reach hedge trimmer

STIHL has launched the new HLA 66 and HLA 86, updating its range of cordless long-reach hedge trimmers designed for landscaping professionals and groundskeepers. Ideal for pruning taller hedges and shrubs as well as clearing ground cover plants, the new HLA 66 and 86 replace the popular HLA 65 and 85 models, and feature a series of upgrades to improve the user experience. Well balanced thanks to the repositioned battery, the hedge trimmers are lightweight for easier handling and reduced fatigue when working over longer periods. Thanks to the EC motor, rapid acceleration of the blades is achieved for optimum performance, and the tool can be used in wet conditions to minimise downtime. The 115° swivelling cutter bar allows user to achieve top, side and bottom cuts easily, whilst the blade is also sharpened on both sides for efficient cutting in any direction. Additionally, the cutter blade can be folded flat for improved user safety and space saving when transporting the tool.

Both of the models feature a new ergonomic control handle and a self-resetting locking lever in combination with the Ego lever for an intuitive start-up process. This design also ensures that the tool is comfortable to use whether right-handed or left-handed and features anti-slip protection for further safety and comfort. The HLA 66 is available with a loop handle and shaft grip for ergonomic working helping users trim closer to where they are standing, whilst the HLA 86 offers a telescopic alternative for a longer reach. With an adjustable length of 260cm – 330cm, users can easily find the best working position using the HLA 86, whilst the square shaft design prevents against twisting and deflection allowing for precise positioning even at full extension. Both models can be used with STIHL’s 36V AP battery system for professional use and are compatible with a number of accessories, including a mounting base, carrying system, clamp for the telescopic shaft and catcher plate for the cutting blade.

Auto choke and easy start chainsaws

ECHO has introduced two rear handle chainsaws designed for easy starting. Both are lightweight, versatile and packed with features that enhance operator comfort and convenience. The ergonomic design ensures manoeuvrability and precision, making them ideal for pruning and cutting firewood. The ECHO CS-3510AC is built for casual users looking for a reliable all-round saw to get through work quickly. Equally, it suits the keen gardener who needs a chainsaw for infrequent tasks or is new to using one. The saw features an auto choke with a solenoid valve at the carburettor. This controls the amount of fuel needed, depending on the engine’s temperature, for optimal performance. There are several benefits to this. Firstly, there is no choke lever. The engine start is simply a primary pump and recoil action for faster starting. With the automated system controlling the fuel supply, there is no risk of carburettor flooding. The premium 34.4cc engine is manufactured in Japan to the highest standards for increased performance, extended product life and less downtime. Combined with the light weight of just 3.8kg and compact design it helps reduce operator fatigue, offers longer use and maximum power. The CS-3510ES is equipped with ECHO’s patented ES Start for easy starting every time. A professional-grade 34.4cc engine and dry weight of just 3.7kg offers a saw that gets to work fast and powers through tasks. It is built specifically for versatility and ease of use. The anti-vibration system minimises vibration levels to give excellent manoeuvrability, operator comfort and precision when cutting. There is a momentary switch for a quick and easy engine restart, side-access chain tensioner for quick chain adjustment and an automatic clutch-drive oiler to lubricate the chain. A transparent fuel tank provides easy level checks and there is G-Force Engine Air Pre-Cleaner, to reduce engine exposure to dirt and debris, for less maintenance and longer life. Lightweight construction and ECHO Easy Start technology make the CS-3510ES a great choice for domestic use and on the smallholding or farm.

Pellenc finance deal

Pellenc, distributed in the UK and Ireland by Etesia UK, is taking flexible finance to a new level by offering zero deposit and nothing to pay until March 2021. From 1 November 2020, customers purchasing the Pellenc Landscape Pack, which consists of three market leading ULiB 1200 batteries, Excelion 2000 cow handle brushcutter, Rasion Easy pedestrian mower, Helion 2 Compact hedge trimmer and Airion 3 leaf blower, can take advantage of delivery now and not paying anything until March 2021, with weekly payments at just £66.51 and a competitive APR of just 5.95% over three years. Over the three-year finance period it is also estimated that users could save over £10,000 compared to the use of petrol-powered equivalent tools.

Les Malin, Etesia UK’s managing director, says: “At Etesia, we have always aimed to offer customers the best tools for the job, and as such we’ve worked hard to bring this market this new competitive finance option on a range of Pellenc batteries and tools. Customers can take advantage of purchasing their tools now and have nothing to pay until March 2021. When you take into consideration all of the health and environmental benefits of using commercial battery-powered tools, with over £10,000 cost-savings, there has not been a better time to go green.”

“This finance option has been designed to help customers buy the tools they need now without compromising cash flow, in a way that suits their current financial situation.”

All Pellenc batteries come complete with a comprehensive market leading four-year warranty and all tools with a commercial three-year warranty. The new Pellenc finance option is available until 28 February 2021, subject to status and only available in the UK and Ireland through Etesia UK’s finance partner Golf Finance.

For more details on these and other finance options, customers should contact Etesia UK on 01295 680 120 or email sales@etesia.co.uk.
Turf Revival

Dave Gray of PSD Groundscare unravels the complexities surrounding turf renovation and offers innovative solutions to re-invigorate tired turf.

Turf renovation is a varied, complex and multi-layered term used throughout the turfcare industry.

What does turf renovation mean?
In simple terms it means renewing an area of turf. It sounds straightforward, but there are a number of issues when dealing with this, which is why there are university courses as well as vocational qualifications on the subject that you can study for many years.

This article is not an A-Z on when, why and how to do this but it’s an introduction as to what to consider when approaching this topic.

First to consider is whether the area concerned is for total renewal, partial renewal or seasonal maintenance.

Seasonal maintenance – The process
1) Mow the area down to 2.5 cm and remove the clippings.
2) Look at the area to see what depth into the canopy or soil the scarifier needs to be set. If there is subsurface thatch then set 2mm below the soil and try and use a thick blade. If there is no need for subsurface scarification then consider using a scarifier with thinner blades, but with narrower spacings. This process may need to be done in 2 or 3 directions depending upon the amount of thatch present.
3) Remove scarification debris from lawn. Double cut blades can be found on all models of Eliet scarifiers from 45 cm upwards. When using double cut blades twice as much thatch will be removed than with standard blades. This is because the double cut blades have 12 mm spacing rather than 25 mm. Removing twice as much thatch in one pass saves time and money.

The Eliet C550 ZR is revolutionary as it is the first scarifier that collects the debris in rows, for easier removal, by the use of an auger. The blades on this machine counter rotate pulling the debris out and up and over onto the auger. The auger turns and ejects the debris out of the side of the machine which saves on clear up as no raking is needed due to the material already being gathered up.

The E550ZR, coming to market in Spring 2021, is very similar to that of the C550ZR but without the auger. This self-propelled machine has all the benefits of the C550ZR, with counter rotating blades and being self-propelled, but instead of rowing up the grass, it ejects it across the back of the machine under a guard, which in turn enables faster dispersal of the debris on heavily thatched lawns.
4) Overseed the areas where there is reduced grass coverage. Alternatively, this is an opportunity to change the turf sward and use a different seed mix that might be more shade tolerant or disease resistant. The use of an overseeder on the areas that can repaired, by introducing new seed into the patchy turf rather than removing it completely, is a much quicker and cost effective way of maintenance.

The Eliet DZC600 and DZC450 are exclusive to the market in terms of how they deliver seed into the ground. The DZC600 (60 cm working width) or its little brother the DZC450 (45 cm working width) introduce the seed at a target depth of 5-7mm by cutting a slot and accurately dropping the seed into the grooves. The blades are Tungsten tipped giving up to 300 hours worth of work even on sandy root zones such as golf and bowling greens. This process can be done in a single pass at 25 mm spacings.

At RAYMO we have decided to create the tool to do the job on a commercial level - fully electric or plug-in hybrid radio controlled mowers that are safe, agile, efficient, silent, clean and inexpensive to operate. The mower itself is extremely low in height allowing you to access low clearance areas and has an outstanding climbing ability for sloping and undulating terrain. The ZTR steering system in combination with 4WD delivers exceptional driving and maneuvering features.

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Partial Renewal – The process
1) It is essential to cut the grass down to within 2.5 cm and remove the clippings from the site.
2) Use a heavy duty scarifier and scarify to a depth of 1-2mm below the soil or lower as required. Sometimes this may need to be done in multiple directions depending upon the thatch which has built on the area. Once again remove the debris from the site. A machine such as the Eliet 450 Scarifier or 501 with Fixed Blades are perfect for this application. It boasts features that lend itself towards longevity of use. Firstly, the 3 mm width blades have a leading edge of hardened alloy therefore lasting at least twice as long as standard scarifier blades and never need re-sharpening therefore reducing down time and cost. The blade engage cable does not utilise a clutch or jockey wheel therefore enabling the operator to feather in the blade driving to reduce belt wear, stallng, putting pressure on the engine and through this again reducing downtime and costs. The double bearings on each of the four wheels along with the solid steel frame make this machine more durable than many others in its class.
3) The use of an overseeder on the areas that can be repaired as mentioned in previous section.
4) Top dress the area to help cover the seed and level the turf with appropriate topdressing. That is, 50:50 soil and sand mix, and then brush in the topdressing so it gets down between the canopy of the turf and sits on the ground.
5) Finally water in the area as appropriate for the season.

Total renewal – The process
This is where the area is beyond partial renewal and the whole area needs to be taken up and started again.
1) Use a turf cutter to remove the top inch of the area. The reliable Eliet Turfway 600 allows for efficient cutting of turf with precision. It is unique within its features tracks rather than wheels, has a working width of 60 cm and a 60 mm cutting depth. These features enable the machine to be used with greater efficiency on slopes, boggy, uneven or loose ground. The 60 cm rear mounted blade is the most productive of any pedestrian turf cutter and the use of the splitter blade ensures the cut turf can be divided into 30 cm widths so as to reduce the weight of the rolls. The cutter blade can be set at 50 mm below the ground making it perfect for removing the turf while retaining roots for transplanting as required. The Eliet Turfway has direct drive to the blade, for maximum power, plus hydrostatic drive via a Joy stick lever making it very easy to control. Eliet have also reduced Hand Arm Vibrations (HAVs) to one of the lowest in the market, protecting not only the machine but also the operator.
2) Once the turf has been removed we can then start to prepare the ground for turfing or seeding. The Eliet GZC750/1000 is the perfect machine for this application as it can level and seed as well as prepare the area for turfing as required. The GZC750/1000 is a multi-use machine with great manoeuvrability and is the ideal partner for constructing the perfect lawn.
3) The Eliet GZC750 has two rows of reciprocating tines working across the machine. The tines efficiently break up the compacted soil down to around 5 cm and in turn help to level it off. The finish is of a quality that cut turf

Operating Principle of the Eliet GZC750

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Pellenc UK, based in Swindon, is the UK distributor for Pellenc. Since 2004 Pellenc have established a UK customer base in the grounds maintenance sector through the sale of the Pellenc range of cordless strimmers, blowers, hedge cutters, trimmers and mowers to leading contractors. Pellenc’s range of cordless equipment is supplied and serviced through a network of over 130 dealers within the UK. Pellenc’s range of cordless equipment is supplied and serviced through a network of over 130 dealers within the UK.

The Eliet GZC750 is a multi-use machine with great manoeuvrability and is the ideal partner for constructing the perfect lawn.
Fleet investment at Gathurst golf club

North-West based Gathurst Golf Club has invested in a brand-new fleet of machinery with a retail value of circa £200k to futureproof the club. The prestigious 18-hole parkland golf course, which boasts a variation of hole designs and superb putting surfaces to challenge golfers of all abilities, is a private members-owned club located in Shevington, Wigan.

The club’s ageing fleet, with machines that were up to 20 years old, had started to become both problematic and costly and were failing to meet the standard required. The team realised that a sizeable investment in an entirely new fleet was essential.

Chairman of Greens Eddie Cunliffe called upon award winning fine-turf specialist supplier GGM Groundscare, having purchased a machine from the business two years ago and being very impressed with the service received. Several considerations had to be taken into account when selecting the best machinery for the job, with reliability and productivity of equipment being key. Being based in the North West of England, it was key for the machinery to perform well in all-weather conditions and operate well on clay surfaces. In addition, the 9th hole has a large dip which the previous machine was unable to get up, proving time consuming for the greenkeeping team to manage.

The club trialled a range of products from leading manufacturers Barston and the Greens team instantly saw the great results, with the machines staying on cut for longer and giving a precise finish, which is so important for maintaining the image of the course.

Mr Cunliffe was particularly impressed with the results from the Baroess L2720 Fairway Mower, as the ability to switch from two to four-wheel drive offers the means to cut the entire fairway without any wheel spin, particularly on the tricky 9th hole.

“The new machines have been absolutely brilliant so far and our team have already noticed a huge difference in terms of ease of use and providing a truly outstanding quality of cut. More so, this new fleet is far more efficient and cost effective,” says Chris Gibson, Managing Director at GGM Groundscare.

“We are absolutely delighted to supply this fleet of machinery to Gathurst Golf Club. It really is Japanese excellence working together with Kubota and Baroess as there are no better machines for golf clubs to use to maintain one of their biggest assets – their course”.

Managing saturated greens

Having exhausted all mechanical methods of improving surface drainage, Manor of Groves Course Manager, Lee Brinkley went into the winter of 2019/20 facing the challenge of managing saturated greens once again. However, a consultation with his regional Headland Amenity Technical Manager led to a trial of Xpedite® on four of the club’s problem greens and, despite it being one of the wettest winters on record, the greens had never been drier.

Nestled in a secluded spot on the Hartshulden/Essex border, many of the greens at Manor of Groves are surrounded by trees, restricting both light and airflow to the surface. “It is no exaggeration to say that my predecessor and I had tried everything,” explains Lee, who heads up a team of six greenkeepers. “We’ve hollow-cored, top-dressed, removed thatch and even installed drainage to try and solve the issue. Speaking with Peter Blackaby of Headland was a final roll of the dice to try and avoid the problems we’ve had for many years; with retention of water and the knock-on impact this has on overall playability and plant health.”

“We trialled Xpedite® on four greens, using the equivalent of 14 x 20kg bags per 500m² of surface after hollow-coring last October, and were astounded with the results” Lee explains. “We had both mild, and wet conditions last year but the greens treated with Xpedite® stayed dry and playable throughout. This specific application dovetailed our existing nutritional programme which is delivering fantastic plant health, strong sustained growth and disease-free greens.”

Xpedite® is a soil amendment product that introduces non-compacting pore space into problematic rootzones. The porous nature of the Xpedite® granule, produced from diatomaceous earth, increases oxygen-holding potential and helps to improve permeability and drainage. In summer, it is able to retain water within its structure - which is then available to the grass plant during periods of dry weather.

Appetite for Redexim portfolio

Redexim’s Central UK Territory Manager Andy O’Neill had only a couple of months to get his feet under the table in his new role before nationwide Covid restrictions were introduced. Now, a year into the role, Andy reflects on his rather unusual induction period and how new products in the Redexim portfolio are making quite the impression on what socially distant audiences are looking for.

Along with a new face, SALTEX 2019 and BTME were also the launch platforms for two new products in the Redexim natural turf collection – the 6m wide Top Brush and the high-speed 2519 Verdi-Drain. “Despite the many adversities the year has thrown at us, there’s still a fantastic appetite to see new equipment in the industry and the Verdi-Drain 2519, in particular, is delivering real wow-factor to those that have seen it to date. Now that I am finding my feet all over again, I am looking forward to demonstrating these and other products to the market where and when I can over the next few months,” says Andy.

Boston United FC gets new identity

A new and exciting era is just around the corner for Boston United FC, with an impressive new stadium and a Mansfield Sand Fibres and pitch.

Boston United has said farewell to its ground at York Street after its lease expired and the club is now looking forward to creating a new identity at its new home. The new 5,000 capacity Boston Community Stadium is being built to Football League standards in the hope that the Pilgrims can regain their place in the EFL after being relegated from League 2 in 2019.

A lot of the spotlight will be on the new pitch, which manager Craig Elliott hopes will aid an attack-minded style of play. This wasn’t always possible on the old pitch according to current head groundsman Jim Portas.

“The old pitch served a purpose but to be honest it wasn’t fantastic,” explains Jim. “It had limited drainage and couldn’t be watered in the way the team wanted and it didn’t really suit the manager’s style of play.”

“This new pitch will be a lot faster and slicker and safer for the players. It has a nice, sturdy construction – just what it should be for an ambitious football club.”

The secret ingredient in the construction of the newly-laid pitch is Mansfield’s Sand Fibres and Technology. It has been developed following a two-year research programme at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) with the aim of further improving the characteristics of typical fibre reinforced, sand dominant rootzones by imparting a significant degree of resilience and energy absorption to the surface.

Fineturf (the chosen sports turf supplier) firstly laid 100mm of gravel on top of the drainage, followed by 300mm of graded fine sports sand before rotavating and mixing in of the fibres to the top 25-50mm. This process was followed by seeding and surface preparation including fertiliser programme in order to produce the final natural turf finish.

“The pitch works were originally meant to begin in April, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it wasn’t completed until July. The seed germinated after 6 or 7 days,” says Jim.

“The pitch also benefits from a new irrigation system which is working towards encouraging a deep, rooted sward.

“We have now is a far superior pitch compared to what we had. Thanks to Fineturf and the Fibresand surface, we have an incredibly stable and more playable pitch – it will suit the team’s style of play and the manager will be happy.”

Mansfield Sand helps to give Boston United a new identity.
Zero-turn top of the class

Ariens has introduced its latest IKON XD zero-turn model. The comfortable and easy ride mower has a newly designed seat and intuitive controls for precision performance. Sporting new decals and side panels for a sharper look, this is a zero-turn that has a tougher build that comes with a wide range of commercial features, but at an affordable price for homeowners and semi-professionals. It is constructed with a fully fabricated, heavy-duty tubular steel frame to provide enhanced strength and stability while travelling over different terrain.

The power comes from a premium Kawasaki 726cc engine for reliability and driving a commercial quality cutter deck. This deck is fully fabricated from 10-gauge steel for the durability of professional-grade equipment. There are 13 cutting heights which can be effortlessly adjusted by turning a dial on the control panel. Built for comfort, with its new high-back seat, armrests and vibration-reducing floor mat, the IKON XD comes with a three-year or 300 hours warranty. Models available: IKON XD 42 with a 107cm (42") cutter deck or the IKON XD 52 with a 132cm (52") deck. For more information contact your local dealer or visit the website ariens-uk.com.

Iseki’s dealer network expands

In what has been a turbulent year worldwide, ISEKI UK has been full steam ahead developing the dealer network further. With exciting new products released recently, plus more planned for 2021, things are looking up for the compact tractor and mower manufacturer.

Among some of the developments is the addition of new dealerships, including Gammies operating out of the Forfar depot in Angus, Scotland, and Chandlers covering Bedfordshire up to North Lincolnshire. Glyn Lloyd & Sons in Wales, Youngs Machinery at Kilmarnock, Scotland and FISCO Farm & Garden Machinery in Wakefield, also joined the ISEKI dealer family.

Commenting on the announcement David Withers, Managing Director of ISEKI UK says: “We are really excited to have all these new dealers on board with us to help continue to grow our market share. All dealerships have a great following in their areas and we expect to see significant growth from our partnerships together.”

The change has also delighted Les Gammie who adds: “We have been selling similar products for many years with a wide range of customers so we are really looking forward to working with ISEKI to build on this further. In the short time we have been with ISEKI we have been really pleased with the focus on our core market, the build quality and innovative features of the products are clearly superior to all the other products on the market.”

Commenting on their recent appointment Gavin Pell, Managing Director at Chandlers says: “Chandlers are very pleased to have been appointed Iseki dealers.

This excellent quality range of compact tractors and diesel powered ride-on mowers will complement our professional groundscape range.

“We look forward to working with the team at Iseki to support our customers. Les Butters, our Groundscape Sales Manager will be stocking the full range of Iseki products across our depots, along with running demonstration equipment, which will be available to see on your farm, site, garden, sports field or parkland – with a machine suitable for every application.”

2020 has certainly thrown some unexpected changes to the way the business is run. The decision to run demonstration videos during the first lockdown, proved very successful with dealers reporting many sales directly off the back of these. “Due to more people working from home and spending more time at their properties customers were looking for quality built machinery to assist in these tasks, the sales of our sub compact tractor TXGS24 with all its attachments has proved incredibly popular, this alongside the renowned SXG range of cut and collect mowers has made for a busy year,” notes Dave Withers.

“Contractors and business have also been looking at the more reliable and efficient ways of mowing, our range of SF outfront mowers has been further developed this year, offering not only the rotary cut but teaming up with Muething we can now offer the ultimate combination of flail cutting and superior collection, or scarify and collect.”

Winter tractor

The Countax garden tractor is an all-year-round machine that makes winter chores a lot easier. Using the tractor’s Power Take-Off (PTO) to drive powered accessories is an invaluable feature. One of the most useful is the broadcast spreader for easily spreading salt or grit on icy surfaces. Its a must-have tool in the depths of winter to keep paths and driveways ice-free, featuring an adjustable flow rate and a hopper that holds up to 50kg of granular material.

Fitted with a front-mounted snowblade and a set of chevron tyres, the Countax becomes a formidable force in quickly clearing snow from your paths and drive. It has a tough, rubber-tipped edge on the snowblade designed to clear snow without damaging a concrete or tarmac surface. Hours of hard shovelling are reduced to a few minutes sitting on your tractor. The Countax dealer fits a mounting frame and yoke to the tractor and from there on it’s easy to fit and remove.

Chevron tyres provide extra grip on slippery ground and are available for Countax C, B and A Series. Sizes vary, for the C and B Series pair they are 45.7cm (18") and the A Series pair 58.4cm (23”). The 4TRAC four-wheel drive tractors offer plenty of grip in snow and icy conditions but for a very harsh winter, chevron tyres can be used. These are factory fit only as the tractor has to be re-calibrated.
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The new 82V range offers true petrol rivaling performance, with industry leading power output from products including chainsaws, trimmers, and brushcutters. Cramer offers the most comprehensive dedicated commercial cordless range in the market. From chainsaws and hedge trimmers, to telescopic pole pruners, twin bladed lawnmowers and sweepers. The range has everything for the commercial user, except emissions.

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