

Stihl unveils new saw and cleaner

By Matthew Appleby

Outdoor tool brand Stihl has launched several new products onto the market, including the TS 800 cut-off saw for cutting stone, asphalt and metal.

It has a handheld or cart-mounted operation and a two-stroke engine with stratified scavenging.

The long-life air-filter system with cyclone pre-filtration helps to extend intervals between cleaning and changing, Stihl claims.

It has a 400mm diameter cutting wheel and delivers 5kW of power. The tool can be used in landscape maintenance. Stihl intends it to become a valid alternative to the conventional floor saw.

The TS 800 weighs 12.7kg and costs £810 excluding VAT.

Stihl has also unveiled the RE 551 Plus hot water cleaner, designed for use around garden centres, nurseries and farms. It sprays



New from Stihl: TS800 cut-off saw (left); and RE 551 Plus hot water cleaner

at pressures between 20 and 105 bar and at a temperature of 80°C.

The company has also extended the warranty on its RE 162 pressure cleaner from one to two years.

Stihl is also donating prizes to the garden machinery dealer din-



ner, along with Briggs & Stratton, Countax, Hayter and Honda.

The event will be held on 17 September at the Glee trade show in Birmingham and aims to raise up to £3,000 for the Wooden Spoon charity.

Wetting agent gives dry patch relief all season

Quench turf wetting agent, available from Sherriff Amenity, is a new tool to combat dry patch on amenity turf grass.

Quench is based on chemistry designed to treat dry patch both preventively and curatively. The product is available in liquid, hose-end tablet and pellet formulations for flexibility of application.

The unique surfactant system in Quench binds to water repellent materials in the soil. This bond gives it long-lasting properties and, with programmed applications, can give season-long control of dry patch. Quench also contains wetting and spreading agents that can rehydrate dry soils. If dry patch has already developed, it will be rapidly rewetted by Quench, claims the Suffolk-based sports and amenity turf product supplier.



Cropaid NPA: lowers freezing point

Plant antifreeze reduces damage

Cropaid has launched a natural plant antifreeze (NPA), designed to increase a plant's resistance to heat, cold and frost.

The Essex-based company has worldwide distribution rights to a range of horticultural aid products from Turkey, which it says "are ready to completely revolutionise the future of horticulture".

Cropaid NPA contains *Thiobacillus* subspecies and more than 50 minerals. One litre of product can be diluted to make 200 litres of spray, which is misted over the plant. Applications last up to 15 days. ACME Analytical Laboratories

in Canada has carried out geochemical analysis of the product.

ADAS crop physiologist Dr Jeremy Wiltshire said the product "has potential to decrease the risk of economic loss through frost damage by decreasing damage to flowers and foliage".

The product is freeze resistant and lowers the plant's freezing point so it helps to increase resistance to cold injuries. It is designed to make the plants produce antifreeze proteins and amino acids.

Blower 'world's most powerful'

Pinnacle Power Equipment has introduced the Billy Goat Force, which the Sunbury-on-Thames-based company claims is the most powerful wheeled blower in the world.

The new model is claimed to be lighter than any blower in its class and boasts a computer-optimised fan and housing for maximum performance.

Pinnacle says this means more



Billy Goat Force: computer-optimised performance

leaves and debris can be cleared in less time with lower running costs, less operator time and less fatigue.

For protection, the blower housing is isolated from the frame.

The unit is powered by a choice of Subaru 9hp and Honda 9hp or 13hp engines mounted on 12-gauge steel.

It has three big pneumatic wheels and can be fitted with an optional handbrake and lock-down kit for transportation.

Recommended retail prices for the new blowers are: F900S 9hp

Subaru engine £1,100; F900H 9hp Honda engine £1,250; and F1300H 13hp Honda engine £1,400 (all excluding VAT).

Royce rolls out turf for shade

Royce Turf & Irrigation has launched a turf product for shaded areas.

Director Tim Royce said the *Poa supina* species, called Regency, was developed to meet customer demand. It will grow in 90 per cent shade and was produced to cope with the changing climate.

Royce added: "If this turf does not grow in the shade, no turf will. It is also very resistant to drought and waterlogging."

He said Regency is suitable for landscaping, municipal gardens and all recreational areas, including golf tees. The grass has "exceptional" wear tolerance, he added, due to its high shoot density and, although it is aggressive because of its stoloniferous creeping ability, it is said to require just half the mowing of a conventional ryegrass lawn.