

# ROOKIES

## PRODUCT UPDATE

### FIELD TILLAGE SYSTEM



Conventional rototillers characteristically lift rocks and fine soil particles to the surface. The rocks must be picked up by a landscape rake and the soil fine-graded before seed can be sown. Fine particles brought to the surface settle into soil pore spaces hampering drainage. The Lely rotterra is designed to pulverize soil down to eight inches deep without bringing rocks and fine particles to the surface.

By using a series of vertically-rotating tines and an open-center roller, the machine tills and grades the seedbed. The slower the tractor travels the finer the soil will be. If the tines hit a rock in the soil they push it down or pivot out of its way. Moist lower soil is tilled below the surface reducing moisture loss. The roller follows the tines to smooth the surface and control the depth of tilling from 1/2- to eight-inches.

Models range from 80 inches to ten feet wide. The smallest unit is designed for tractors with category II hitches developing 30 hp at the PTO.

#### LELY PACIFIC INC.

Circle 106 on Reader Service Card

### EIGHT-MONTH FERTILIZER

When frequent fertilization is out of the question, a fertilizer that works for an entire season makes a lot of sense. The chemists at Sierra Chemical Company have combined potassium with quick- and slow-release nitrogen to make Agriform Turf Mix, a quality, single-application fertilizer.

Unlike slow-release fertilizers, part of Agriform's nitrogen goes right to work, while the remaining nitrogen, coated in plastic, becomes available during the next eight months. As temperatures rise and turf grows more rapidly, the product releases nitrogen

faster to feed it. When temperatures fall less nitrogen is released to match the plant's needs. Water-soluble potassium in Agriform delivers early color and immediate growth response. The product's analysis is 34-0-7.

Providing the product is evenly distributed without damaging the plastic coating on the fertilizer, steady, season-long turf nutrition is provided. The material is naturally free-flowing and does not require an agitator. Hopper settings are generally lower than those required to deliver equivalent rates of conventional fertilizers.

#### SIERRA CHEMICAL COMPANY

Circle 109 on Reader Service Card

### TARP MACHINE



Large, bulky tarps are difficult to roll and unroll even for the strongest field crew, especially during a rain or snow storm. A veteran stadium manager has taken the load off his crew by inventing the Tarp Machine.

Attached to a small tractor with three-point hitch and PTO, the patented device makes light work out of rolling or unrolling large, field-size tarps on drums. The tractor's PTO powers a hydraulic system which gives the machine the muscle to lift and roll the drum so a tarp can be wrapped around it. All controls can be operated from the tractor seat.

As the value of covering fields grows and labor costs rise, labor-efficient methods to handle covers are needed. The Tarp Machine was designed to meet this need with an attachment to existing stadium equipment.

#### THE TARP MACHINE

Circle 105 on Reader Service Card

### QUICK COUPLER VALVE

Connecting and operating quick-coupler sprinklers has been improved with Nelson's two-inch valve. Designed for the company's Big Gun sprinklers, the valve is actuated by a unique hydraulic assist. It can be oper-

ated manually or equipped with a solenoid to turn on and off automatically.

The valve permits older quick-coupler sprinkler heads located on the perimeter of athletic fields to be updated and can eliminate the need for travelling sprinklers or pop-up heads on the playing surface to obtain full coverage.

The valve makes quick-coupler irrigation systems semi-automatic. By adding a 24-volt solenoid to each valve, up to eight heads will automatically sequence during a 24-hour period.

Nelson recommends a water supply of at least 100 gpm with a minimum of 70 psi produced at the nozzle for the Big Gun/Quick Coupler system to function most effectively.

#### NELSON IRRIGATION CORP.

Circle 103 on Reader Service Card

### TURF SWEEPER



When thousands of spectators and more than 100 players are counting on your field to look sharp and play well, a sweeper is a handy tool to have. The Estate Master sweepers from Parker can remove clippings and debris or add texture to a football or baseball field in less than ten minutes. A gang of three wheel-driven brush sweepers removes an eight-foot swath of debris with each pass of the field.

Each sweeper is built with cast iron wheels, long-life polypropylene brushes, mildew-resistant baskets, plated-steel tubing, and heavy gauge steel hood with a baked-on finish. The three units, when joined together with a frame, can be pulled with a small tractor to pick up clippings, leaves, and debris. The brushes can be adjusted to comb turf to give a field a groomed pattern. The sweepers also remove debris from artificial turf.

The simplicity of the sweepers makes them reliable. Baskets are easily and quickly dumped when full.

#### PARKER SWEEPER CO.

Circle 110 on Reader Service Card