



Wiedenmann™

NEWS RELEASE

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Wiedenmann UK's Heather Management System scoops industry prize

Wiedenmann UK's recently launched Heather Management System, believed to be the first of its kind, has scooped the Machinery Award for 2007 in Turf Professional magazine's annual poll of new products.

'Commenting, Turf Professional editor, Chris Biddle, said "All the winners demonstrated innovation and forward thinking in the development of machinery and products that will provide tangible benefits to operators and users in the turfcare sector."

Unveiled in the summer, the new system lets professionals cut the heather in a much kinder, less destructive way. It combines two established Wiedenmann machines. Instead of a flail mower which rips out heather plants, Wiedenmann's system uses a Super Pro TXL side discharge rotary mower specially raised to cut long grass growing above the heather. Debris is sucked away through a hose connected to a Wiedenmann MCS collector. Once the seeds are ripe, the mower cuts off the heads and the seeds go into the collector.

The rotary mower give a much neater finish and new heather can be raised from the home-grown seed, rather than from externally sourced seed which is expensive. Seed can be harvested more easily and cleanly than before with less wood collected. A unique "skirt" attachment provides additional guards when the rotary mower is raised specifically to deal with heather and long grass.

Devised in consultation with green keepers, the first fully developed system is already operational at several sites. It has attracted much interest across Great Britain and Ireland from those who care for heather including heritage properties and estates.

Course manager, Ian McMillan at Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey helped in its specification. He gives it the thumbs up. "I see golf courses adopting this system. It allows us to mow and collect. We've now a far greater range of mowing heights. Before, we used agricultural mowing equipment. The flail action was not very friendly on the heather. It would lift the clumps of heather up by the crown and rip it out of the ground. This is a lot cleaner."

Depending on the tractor, (minimum 25hp – 40hp), Wiedenmann offer eight separate models of its heather management system. Cutting widths vary from 1.3m -1.8m with hopper sizes varying from 600-1500 litres. Fitted system prices begin at £9,335 with optional support wheels at £650. The Super Pro TXL rotary mower can be converted back to full grass cutting duties within 15 minutes. Wiedenmann and their dealers offer the heather maintenance system as a "bespoke" service to clients, tailoring systems to individual needs.

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