

# GRASSBOX

## COLOUR SUPPLEMENT: AUTUMN 2003

This supplement has been produced in response to requests for a larger Grassbox and to show some of the machines in colour.



Greens Motor Mowers are always worth a second look and a few have been discovered in the past year. This example, dating from the 1920s and belonging to Steve Smith, was at the Annual Rally in 2003.



Many obscure manufacturers produced motor mowers in the 1920s and 30s. This Course & Carne, made in Bedford, is the only one we have seen and it belongs to Alec Hillyar.



The Qualcast Model E was one of the most successful sidwheeler mowers ever made. There are plenty of examples around and they do look very smart when painted up in the blue and red.

Note: Thanks to the following for help with captions:  
Tim Durant; Andrew Hall; Alan & Dick Hardwick; Tony Hopwood; Dusty Miller; Christopher Proudfoot.



The water cooled JP motor mower, from the 1920s, is a rare machine today but one was seen at Milton Keynes in 2003 (Photo: Bill Heath).



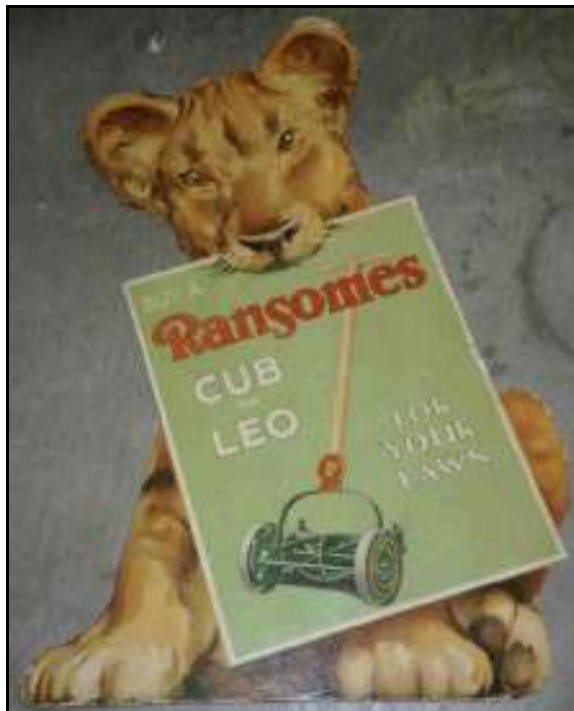
Richard Jones and Alec Hillyar show how to use a two-person mower, a Silens Messor, at West Dean in 2002.



Dusty Miller demonstrates his 1925 24" Blackburn-engined FEA Dennis at West Dean in 2002. The mower has an ML magneto and Binks carburettor.



The Follows and Bate Climax was the first sidwheeler when it was introduced in 1869. Thousands were made, as attested by FW Follows in the article in the main Grassbox, but very few have survived or been discovered. These, one belonging to the Hall & Duck Trust the other to Tim Durant, were at a Club rally a few years back.



Ransomes Leo and Cub advertisement dating from the 1920s. Advertising from this period always seems so colourful and more like works of art. Some people find it very collectable.



These Power Specialities and Shay Rotoscythes from the 1950s and 1960s are a familiar sight at many rallies where the Williams family display them.



This Ransomes Reversible, belonging to Stan Hardwick, won the Andrew Grout Plate at the Annual Rally in 2003. The mower was called the Reversible because the whole chassis could be inverted and the bottom-block and handle repositioned so that the leading edges of the blades, blunted by use, became the trailing edges. The idea was that they would be re-sharpened automatically while the sharp, previously trailing edges, were doing their turn as leaders. The machine dates from the late 1870s to early '80s. A similar, simpler idea was employed on the Silens Messor where the cutting cylinder could be reversed to achieve the same self-sharpening effect.



Anthony Parkes and Andrew Hall demonstrate pony mowing at the Malvern Autumn Show in 2003. The mower is a 1898 Shanks.



The Atco "kick start" motor mower was available in 14", 17" and 20" sizes, as seen here in the company's 1953 brochure.



The Annual Rally always presents an opportunity for discussion. Here Mike Duck, Alan Hardwick, Dick Hardwick, Roy Newball and Paul Hemsley get to grips with the large Automower brought to the rally by Alan and Dick.



This Rendle mower pusher dating from the early 1920s, seen with an earlier Greens Silens Messor, is driven by Tony Skingley at Malvern Autumn Show 2003.