



PRESS RELEASE:

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Nathan Hume wins top spray operator Award presented at BTME

The prestigious title of Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year (ASOY) has been won by Nathan Hume, Contracts Manager and Ecologist for national grounds maintenance experts, SH Goss Ltd.

ASOY rewards top sprayer operators across the amenity industry, with the aim to share their best practices to enhance standards for all.

Presented for the first time at BTME Harrogate this week (23 January 2018), the ASOY Awards are organised by the Amenity Forum, and sponsored by ICL and Syngenta, in association with BASIS.

As well as the overall top operator, Nathan Hume was the winner of the **Landscape & Industrial using hand held equipment** category.

Also recognised by the Awards were **Chris Phillips** of Complete Weed Control South Wales, as the top operator for **Sports turf using boom sprayer or hand held equipment**, along with the company's **Lee Harrison**, winner of the **Landscape & Industrial using vehicle mounted equipment** category.

Nathan primarily specialises in the prevention of invasive non-native plants. He operates in a wide variety of sites including airports, railways, cemeteries, rivers, forests, nature reserves, construction sites and golf courses.

"It was an honour to receive the Award," he said. "Myself and the company have always followed best practice so it's a nice justification that we are doing things right," he said.

Commenting on Nathan's success, from a record entry in the third annual ASOY Awards, Professor John Moverley, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, said: *"The Awards seek to recognise the quality and level of professionalism in our sector. They highlight how professional amenity maintenance Keeps Britain Moving.*

"All of the Category winners have demonstrated an extremely high level of professionalism; picking an overall winner was extremely difficult," he reported. "They have all demonstrated the exceptional skills of operators across the amenity sector - doing their jobs to an extremely high standard every day.

"Secondly they have exemplified the whole concept of the safe use of pesticides, being applied correctly and in a sustainable manner."

ICL Landscape and Industrial Manager, Mark Pyrah, added: *“Accurate application, ably demonstrated by the skills of all the ASOY entrants, is a key element of effective stewardship of products and helping to ensure they will remain available,”* he said.

“It is all about sprayer awareness - maintaining good application to maintain the product so that the individual is promoting best practice.”

Daniel Lightfoot, Syngenta Turf UK Business Manager, believed that the Awards should be a shining light of the amenity industry’s approach to safe and sustainable spray application.

“The independent judging panel highlighted Nathan has shown outstanding skills and worked to very high standards to achieve the best possible results. He has proved a worthy winner by showing that best practice can deliver efficient, cost effective and, above all, safe amenity spraying.”

“Syngenta recognises that the skills of the sprayer operator are paramount in achieving the full potential from all applications and assuring the future sustainable use,” he added.

Notes to Editors

The Amenity Forum is the non-profit making voluntary initiative and the independent body bringing together professional organisations with an involvement in the amenity horticulture sector. This is a very diverse industry responsible for the landscape management of urban areas, highways and rail network, sports grounds, parks, industrial and utility sites. To establish and maintain these areas to a high standard, the sector requires access to pesticides, efficient equipment and trained and qualified staff. The organisation was formed in October 2003 as a key action to support the Voluntary Initiative, an industry led project agreed with Government to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides.

The membership comprises of organisations from across this diverse industry, covering manufacturers, suppliers, trade associations, local authorities, major users, landscape, sport and leisure. Equally important are those members who represent training and qualification standards. The key Government agencies have an important observer role. The objectives of the Amenity Forum are:

- *To promote and encourage proper and responsible use of pesticides and integrated methods for the control of pests, weeds and diseases*
- *To lead, coordinate and encourage achievement of “Best Practice” objectives in weed, pest & disease management*
- *To ensure that all practices are sustainable and protect the environment with minimised risks to public health.*
- *To run a communication programme to support these aims and to promote the image of the sector among stakeholders and the public.*
- *To coordinate and encourage the establishment of sustainable qualifications, training and CPD activity, specifically for the Amenity sector*
- *To organise activities within the Amenity Forum membership and linked organisations, such that Amenity Forum objectives are developed in a coordinated way*

For further information on this press release or the work of the Forum, please contact the Secretary, Kate Hopkins, or the Chairman, Professor John Moverley OBE. Similarly if you wish to register for future press releases, please let us know.

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