



## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **OVERALL WINNER ANNOUNCED SPRAYER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR 2019**

## **PAUL GATER, CALDY GOLF CLUB**

ASOY recognises and rewards top sprayer operators across the amenity industry. It aims to improve standards, by identifying the best practice of individuals to enhance results – and share their experiences across the industry.

Presented for the second time at BTME Harrogate, 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, Paul was the winner of the Sports Turf Using Tractor Mounted & Hand Held Equipment Category.

The other category winner recognised by the Awards was Ian Millward of Millward Forestry who won the Landscape and Industrial Using Hand Held & Tractor Mounted Equipment Category.

Commenting on Paul's success, from a record entry in the fifth annual ASOY Awards, Professor John Moverley OBE, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, said: "The Amenity Forum is the voluntary initiative for this important and essential sector. We promote best practice and these awards are a demonstration of the high professional standards in our sector and identify those individuals who go above and beyond in their work.

Our congratulations go all those who were shortlisted, the category winners and especially our overall winner this year – an excellent ambassador for the sector. Thanks also to our sponsors who make all this possible."

ICL Business Development Manager, Mark Pyrah, added:

"ICL remains committed to supporting the Amenity Forum and both sponsoring and championing the 'Amenity Sprayer Operator Of The Year' award. We would like to acknowledge all those candidates that put themselves forward and for recognising the fact that accurate application remains key to good product performance.

ICL UK along with Syngenta UK looks forward to continuing to support the 'Amenity Sprayer Operator Awards' going forward and would encourage any individual responsible for spray application to consider putting themselves forward in 2020 and championing good practice in the art of application."

Syngenta Technical Manager and application specialist, Glenn Kirby, highlighted the skills and experience of sprayer operators is paramount in achieving the best results possible from every application.

“All of the Awards entrants have demonstrated the essential techniques for safe and responsible spray application. Sharing their ideas and advice can help all operators to become more efficient and effective.” All entrants to the Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards will be entered into the chance to win a place at the new Syngenta Application Academy.

Stephen Jacob, BASIS CEO commented:

“The Awards highlight the exceptional skills, knowledge and experience of the operators and provide a demonstration of best practice for effective results and, above all, that pesticides are used in a safe and sustainable manner in amenity situations”

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## **CATEGORY WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP SPRAYER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR 2019**

### **LANDSCAPE AND INDUSTRIAL USING HAND HELD & TRACTOR MOUNTED EQUIPMENT**

Winner Ian Millward, Millward Forestry

Runner Up Daniel Lewis, Manchester City

### **SPORTS TURF USING TRACTOR MOUNTED & HAND HELD EQUIPMENT**

Winner Paul Gater, Caldys Golf Club

Runner Up Jason Garlick, JMG Amenity

### **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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