



The Zago Ecogreen shredder has its own crane for loading and is towed and powered by a 160hp Unimog.

**Wiltshire-based JV Strong and Company Ltd invested in a Zago shredder a year ago. It has fulfilled their objective of producing a useful product without recourse to burning or disposing to landfill.**

“Legislation on burning commercial waste is on the way anyway,” points out Contracts Manager, Chris Rabbets, who runs the shredding operation. “And putting green waste to landfill is completely uneconomic; there aren’t enough holes available in any case.”

Their investment of around £70,000 in a second-hand Unimog and the Zago shredder to process green waste at sites they manage across the South and South West has proved successful. “Initially some of the site managers were not convinced. But as soon as they saw the end product they became enthusiastic and wanted to commit more and more waste,” says Chris, who takes the rig

round a dozen or so sites within a 48km radius where the company has grounds maintenance contracts.

The 160hp Unimog has enough punch to power the shredder which contains a series of parallel augers carrying shredder knives. “It will reduce green waste, even that containing branches up to 6in thick, into a mulch in minutes,” enthuses Chris.

This mulch is then turned on site two or three times to let the bacteria break it down and the heat formed during the process to kill off weed seeds. The virtually sterile end product resulting at the end of two to three months is then used as a mulch on shrubs and in similar situations.

“A temperature of around 70deg C is crucial for good break-down,” says Chris.

“It doesn’t want to be less or bacteria won’t work, and if it is too high the bacteria will be killed.”

The most recent addition to the composting system is a screener with which the compost can be sieved to various sizes according to requirement. “The beauty of the job is that we can screen out the lumpy bits to leave a nice end product,” explains Chris.

“The stuff that has gone over the screen simply goes back to the composting process. It means that we end up with 100 per cent green waste utilised.”

**High capacity**

The Zago Ecogreen, marketed by King Feeders UK, Macclesfield, Cheshire, comes in five models. The one operated by JV Strong has 15 cubic metre capacity, a power requirement of 100hp and pto drive.

It contains a series of heavy duty augers carrying knives so that the materi-



The composted material is friable and makes a useful mulch for shrubberies and other plant growing media.



Contract manager Chris Rabbets has found plenty of work for the machine.

al is turned and sliced to a mulch, a process taking a matter of minutes. The machine has a loading crane and mulched material exits via a side conveyor.

The capacity of the machine is good. Chris has processed 30 skip loads of green waste in a day and, as he explains, mulching reduces the volume of material by at least 7:1 so that the former unsightly piles of waste are reduced to material of even consistency and which further reduces in bulk during the composting process. ●

**Profile: JV Strong**

JV Strong and Co Ltd was formed in 1842. Its initial function was to service Ministry of Defence establishments on and around Salisbury Plain. The company continues as contractor to MOD establishments as far North as Stafford, west to Cornwall and east to Surrey, and is also increasingly becoming involved with local authorities.

Total employment at the main base at Devizes, Wiltshire, and at the many operational sites amounts to some 250 people.

The company became a registered BS EN ISO 9002 in 1994 and is proud of its quality image, good practice on health and safety, and staff training schemes.

JV Strong offers a wide range of services in grass care, amenity weed control, turf management, fencing, recreational facility management, and pest and vermin control.