

# The “Four Oaks” Spraying Machine Company

by

Adrian Lanchester-Hale

The Four Oaks Spraying Machine Co (FOSMC) was situated in Belwell Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield. It was replaced during the mid 1970's by a Waitrose store (closed 2020) and the Lloyds British building with a Wine Bar on the ground floor.



The above image was taken by a member of the public in the late 1960's or early 1970's and the resultant slide given to the Sutton Coldfield Reference Library. It shows Fernlea, the Ludfords' house on the left with the offices on the right. Just visible above the office roofs are the gable ends of the manufactory behind the offices.

It was one of two spraying machine manufacturers in Sutton Coldfield, the other being J.A. Southerton who used the trade name Martsmith, previously Martineau and Smith of Birmingham. The site of this manufacturer in Coleshill Road is now that of a Porsche dealer.

The founder of the FOSMC, William Charles George Ludford, had been born in 1867 to William and Elizabeth Ludford, his father born in Middlesex, his mother was from

Sutton Coldfield. He purchased Fernlea, a house on the north side of Belwell Lane, just to the Mere Green side of the railway bridge in, perhaps, the late 1880's or early 1890's, his name appearing on the 1891 Burgess Roll and with his family on the 1891 Census, which recorded his occupation as an accountant's clerk.

A sprayer machine catalogue from the 1950's and also one produced in 1968 indicate that the company was established in 1895.

Information taken from a document contained within a Company Microfiche record received from Companies House Cardiff tells us that in September 1898 WCG Ludford purchased a plot of land situated next to his house, Fernlea, from a John Jones in Belwell Lane. It was upon this land that he subsequently built his works and some offices fronting Belwell Lane.

The manufactory created by WCG Ludford was situated initially next door to his house, Fernlea. Photographs show a building with ivy or creeper growing up the front with the name in large gold coloured letters just under the first floor windows. This was originally a four gabled building, though photographs taken in the early 1970's show a fifth gable over a garage door entrance with the addition of Ltd after the name.

Below is a view of the offices taken from the south eastern corner of the junction of Mere Green Road with Lichfield Road looking across the island up Belwell Lane and showing the offices without creeper.

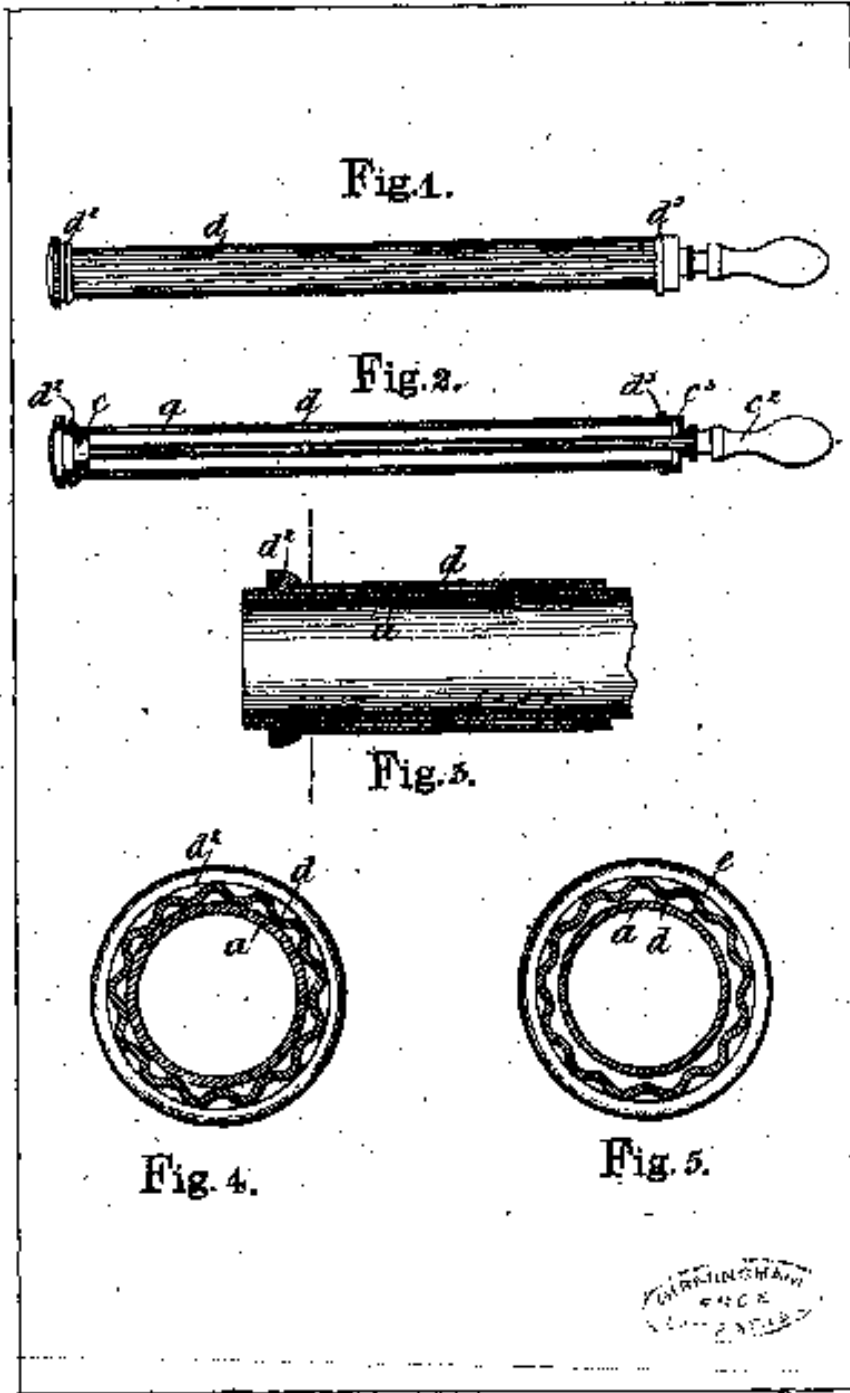


The same photo also shows the old Midland Bank building on the corner predating somewhat the following image showing the newer bank building. The offices of the Company are once more covered with creeper.



In the above photo, the gate to the left of the offices is part of the double gated entrance to the yard which gave both access to the house and the manufactory behind.

On 28th February 1902, WCG Ludford submitted a Patent Application, GB190204825, in respect of Improvements in Garden and Other Syringes, which essentially patented the design for an undentable syringe. The Patent was Accepted on 29th January 1903, this would suggest that these items may have been produced and sold from mid-1903 onwards.



While I was at the Canwell Show in August 2006 displaying a number of sprayers, a former employee of the FOSMC advised me that when WCG Ludford was returning home one evening on the train from Birmingham to Four Oaks, he came across an idea while toying with some corrugated card packing with him. He realised that if turned with the corrugations out then the central working barrel would be protected.

Plans submitted to the Borough of Sutton Coldfield in May 1911, ref no 2290, indicated the intention of WCG L to construct a single storey office block, 42' x 20', on vacant land to the rear of buildings that fronted Belwell Lane. Work continued and various documents show completion of various stages of work, the one relating to the Form of Notice as to Drains, signed off on 19 March 1912, indicated that the company was known as the The Four Oaks Undentable Syringe Co. Interestingly, this matches the name shown on some early undentable syringes. A number of Undentables in my collection and on others that I have seen pictures of, also had the name The Four Oaks Nursery Co shown on some of their parts.

Further plans were submitted to the Borough of Sutton Coldfield on March 26th 1912, ref no 2373, in respect of the construction of a 2 storey Store and Packing Warehouse, approximately 41' x 32', within the vacant area on site.

Subsequent planning applications Ref 2777 in May 1918, together with Refs 2858 and 2859 in September 1919, indicated that the business was expanding such that further space was required for the business to continue.

In 1909 he purchased the leases of some of the properties on the opposite side of Belwell Lane. Subsequent acquisitions took place in later years. In time these led to the FOSMC owning the leases of the properties 1 through to 17 Belwell Lane.

1909 saw a number of spraying machines entered into a demonstration of spraying machines, liquids and liming machines held on Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> and organised by the Wisbech and District Fruit Growers' Association. The prizes to be awarded were six silver gilt and six silver medals. Other firms taking part included: Benton and Stone, Birmingham; Cooper & Nephew, Berkhamstead; Strawson & Son, Reading; Drake and Fletcher, Maidstone. Four competitions were arranged: Class A - Knapsack Sprayers for liquids; Class B – Sprayers on wheels for liquids; Class C – Limewash Sprayers; Class D – Knapsacks for distributing dry powders. The field opened at 10.30 a.m. and half an hour later, when judging commenced, reports indicated that there was a good attendance. The Four Oaks Spraying Machine Company succeeded in being awarded the silver gilt medal for Class A with their Knapsack sprayer for liquids. The judges noted that the machine shown by them was exceedingly simple in construction and very well made. A selection of their own nozzles was used and the 'Marvellous' nozzle was very much admired, giving a large spray with good force. While they were not successful in any of the other classes, contemporary press reports mentioned their entry in Class C with two machines, the one with the thirty gallon tank being their best.

Entry into the Northern Fruit Congress competition in October 1910, held at Hexham, produced two gold medals.

By 1911, the business was doing well enough to support advertisements in such publications as the Estate Book, issued by the Country Gentlemen's Association. The 1911 advertisement boldly states that 'The "Four Oaks" Syringes Spraying and Limewashing Machines are acknowledged by all users to be the best the world has ever seen. It featured their Undentable Syringe a range of syringes that were sold with a three-year guarantee against indentation of their working barrel, the working barrel is wrapped within a corrugated brass tube with the corrugations being on the outside.



Prices for these in 1911 ranged from 12s 6d for a No 9 which was one-and-one-eighth in. by 20 in., to a No 5, best quality, teak handled example 1+3/4" by 20 in., 32s! Also featured was The "Four Oaks" Patent Knapsack Sprayer, No 101. This was a sprayer, with a capacity of 3 +1/4 gallons, was carried on the back with an operating arm on one side and a lance at the end of a 3-foot best India-rubber tube, fitted with the "Four Oaks" Patent spraying Nozzle and short brass tube with a stop cock. This cost 45s and the advert advised that in addition to spraying fruit trees and trees of all kinds, vines, hops, Coffee, Tea and Cocoa, also Potatoes and other crops, it could also be used for Limewashing.

**THE ESTATE BOOK, 1911** 467

## The "Four Oaks" Syringes Spraying and Limewashing Machines

are acknowledged by all users to be  
**the best the world has ever seen.**

Now in use in all the leading Gardens and Nurseries everywhere; send for samples and you will afterwards use no other make. The "Undentable" syringes are guaranteed against indentation of working barrel for three years.



**The "Four Oaks" Undentable Syringe, No. 1.**

"Four Oaks" Undentable Syringe, the Gardener's dual syringe, complete with Jet as illustrated, also box and canvas cover: No. 1, Best quality, with teak handle—  
Ladies' size, 1 1/4 in. by 18 in., 46s.; standard size, 1 1/2 in. by 20 in., 21s.; large size, 1 3/4 in. by 20 in., 26s.  
No. 2, Good quality, with rosewood handle—  
Ladies' size, 1 1/4 in. by 18 in., 18s.; standard size, 1 1/2 in. by 18 in., 13s. 6d.; large size, 1 3/4 in. by 18 in., 21s.



**The "Four Oaks" Undentable Syringe, No. 2.**

"Four Oaks" Undentable Angle-Jointed Syringe, invaluable for spraying the undersides of leaves and branches which cannot be reached by the ordinary syringe; is an undentable syringe, illustrated above, with the addition of an Angle Joint. No. 3, Best quality, teak handle—Ladies' size, 1 1/4 in. by 18 in., 22s.; standard size, 1 1/2 in. by 20 in., 25s.; large size, 1 3/4 in. by 20 in., 28s. 6d.; No. 4, Good quality, rosewood handle—Ladies' size, 1 1/4 in. by 18 in., 20s.; standard size, 1 1/2 in. by 18 in., 23s. 6d.; large size, 1 3/4 in. by 18 in., 26s.



**The "Four Oaks" Undentable Angle-Jointed Syringe, No. 3.**

The "Four Oaks" Undentable Spraying Syringe. The most useful syringe it is possible to have in a garden. Gives a fine vapour or mist-like spray. Invaluable for ordinary spraying or for dusting insecticides.  
No. 5, one-and-one-eighth in. by 20 in., 22s. 6d.; 1 1/4 in. by 20 in., 20s. 6d.  
It is fitted with quick-acting ball valve.



**The "Four Oaks" Undentable Spraying Syringe, No. 5.**

The "Four Oaks" Undentable Angle-Jointed Spraying Syringe. This is the same syringe as No. 5, illustrated above, but with the addition of an Angle Joint for spraying the undersides of leaves and branches. An undentable syringe.  
No. 5 A.J., one-and-one-eighth in. by 20 in., 26s.; 1 1/4 in. by 20 in., 24s. 6d.



**The "Four Oaks" Undentable Angle-Jointed Spraying Syringe, No. 5 A.J.**

## The "Four Oaks" Patent Knapsack Sprayer, No. 101 (British made).

The most simple yet by far the best knapsack sprayer ever produced.

No rubber valves to perish or get out of order. All working parts outside.

The only knapsack with force behind the spray.

We manufacture large spraying and limewashing machines of every description.



Suitable for spraying Fruit Trees and Trees of all kinds, Hops, Vines, Coffee, Tea and Cocoa, also Potatoes and other crops.

**Price 45s.** complete with Four Oaks Patent Spraying Nozzle, also Swivel Nozzle and Short Brass Tube with Stop Cock and 3 feet Best India-rubber Tube.

Will give very fine, medium or coarse spray, as desired.


This Machine can also be used for Limewashing.

The "Four Oaks" Undentable Syringe and Spraying Machine Co., Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham.—Send for Catalogue of Syringes, Spraying and Limewashing Machines, and other Horticultural Specialities.



An example of instructions for use of sprayers from 1912 is shown below:

**THE "FOUR OAKS"**



**GOLD MEDAL**

## Spraying & Limewashing Machines.

### DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

**FOR SPRAYING OR SYRINGING.** Before filling the container with water or insecticides it is necessary to clean out all dirt, sediment, or straw, and so ensure that no particles can be sucked into the pump. Then partly fill the container with clean water and pump for several minutes. This will thoroughly clean the pipes, valves, etc.

**FOR LIMEWASHING.** Providing these instructions are carefully carried out we can guarantee satisfactory Limewashing.

Before commencing work make certain that the machine is thoroughly clean. It is best to clean it out with water as per directions printed above.

This operation should be repeated each time after use, as it is most important that the machine should be kept clean.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF LIMEWASH.** To obtain the best result from a Limewashing Machine it is of great importance that the limewash should be prepared with care, and also that a fairly good quality lime should be used, Buxton lime is the best.

The lime should be placed in a tub or other receptacle, and must be slaked by pouring water upon it. The quantity of water should not exceed the amount that the lime can readily absorb. After the water is sprinkled on the lime you will find it will commence to crack and split up, and steam will be emitted. It will then gradually dissolve into fine dry powder, and water can then be added, and the whole stirred up until it is of the desired consistency. A consistency about the same as cream is the most satisfactory.

The limewash must be passed through the strainer which is provided with the machine.

A little size may be added with advantage, or if preferred, an addition of a small quantity, say 2 per cent. of salt can be added to fix the solution.

An addition of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of Blue to 50 gallons of water gives an improved colour for walls.

The Spraying Nozzle should be held about twelve inches from the wall for Limewashing, and when working close to windows or doors it is best to work rather closer and reduce the pressure. You will then ensure that no splashes go on to windows or woodwork. For reaching high walls or ceilings, see Long Tubes quoted on back. You must not attempt to limewash high walls with the short brass rod.


Move the spray rapidly along from left to right, and right to left, without stopping. Never spray too long in one place, or it will run and spoil the effect. Do not give a second coat before the first coat is dry.

The Spray can be instantly stopped by turning off the tap. When not spraying lay the Spraying Rod across the machine, not with nozzle downwards or the nozzle will become clogged.

Should the Limewash at any time be inclined to run, it shows either that the wash is not thick enough or that the operator is not moving quickly enough along the wall.

Should any splashing occur, the operator is putting too much pressure on the pump, or holding nozzle too near the wall.

Anyone who has never used a Limewashing machine before can become proficient in a few minutes by first practising spraying a wall with plain water.





The Limewashing Nozzle, No. 69  
Price, 5/6

**SPECIAL NOTE.** Only Nozzles No. 69, as illustrated below, or No. 71, illustrated on back, can be used for Limewashing. These Nozzles are specially labelled. Should No. 69 Nozzle at any time clog, it can be instantly unclogged by tapping against the wall, when the Ejector Pin will clear any obstruction out of the orifice.

The other Nozzle, No. 51, supplied with the machine, is not suitable for limewashing and must not be used for that purpose. It is designed for Spraying with fine liquids only, or for washing down. This nozzle will be found screwed on back of pump, near handle.

When the small cap is inside, nozzle No. 51 gives a very fine spray suitable for trees or disinfecting.

By taking out the small cap, a straight jet is obtained, suitable for carriage or window washing, etc.

Nozzle No. 51  
Price, 4/6

Do not put unnecessary pressure on the pump when working, or put pressure on when tap is turned off, or you will burst the hose pipe.

These Machines can also be used for Sanitary Water Paints, in the same way.

**OILING.** The machines should always be kept well oiled.

With the bucket type of Limewashers, the piston rods should be oiled before and after use.

**Instructions in a nutshell—**

**PUMP EASILY! KEEP MOVING!**  
**HOLD NOZZLE ABOUT 12 INCHES FROM WALL.**

Copyright, 1912 P.T.O.



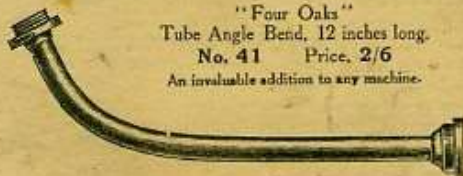
A FEW USEFUL EXTRA  
ACCESSORIES FOR THE  
"FOUR OAKS"  
LIMEWASHING MACHINES



All these useful Accessories will fit ANY of our Machines, all parts being universal in size



"Four Oaks" Straight Jet for washing, etc.  
No. 17 Price, 3/9  
This Jet converts any Machine into a  
FIRE EXTINGUISHER.



"Four Oaks"  
Tube Angle Bend, 12 inches long.  
No. 41 Price, 2/6  
An invaluable addition to any machine.



"Four Oaks"  
Lengthening Pieces to fit on to any of the lances.  
12 inches long.  
No. 42 Price 2/6



"Four Oaks"  
Unchokable Nozzle.  
(Patent No. 11,600)

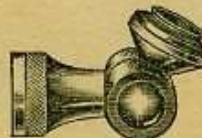


No. 71  
An Unchokable Nozzle.  
This Nozzle automatically  
clears if at any time it clogs.  
We recommend this nozzle  
for use with thick and gritty  
lime.  
If your lime is ever inclined to  
choke, this is the nozzle to use.  
Price, 6/6

The "Four Oaks"  
Marvellous Nozzle, No. 68



Gives a wide cloud of Vapour-  
like spray 3 feet across.  
Price, 4/6



No. 43  
"Four Oaks" Movable Angle  
Joint.

Most popular, enables user to  
Spray or Limewash easily in  
most difficult places. We  
recommend every purchaser  
of one of our machines to  
have one of these.

Price, 6/6



"Four Oaks" Bend, No. 40  
For Spraying and Lime-  
washing the undersides of  
branches, etc.

Price, 2/6

Cattle Nozzle, No. 45

A very useful appliance for farmers and veterinary surgeons.  
Wood, lined with aluminium. Can be used with any  
of our machines. Price, 13/6



"Four Oaks" Long Tubes for Limewashing high walls or spraying tall trees.

"FOUR OAKS" Bamboo Lances, with interior brass tube, stopcock, and all fittings.	Price,
4ft.	15/-
6ft. 6in.	25/-
8ft.	27/6
10ft. 6in.	30/-
13ft.	34/6
15ft.	37/6

Extra Lengths of Best Quality Rubber Tubing.

6ft. length complete with brass Unions	Price,
10ft. "	11/6
12ft. "	16/6
15ft. "	19/-
" " " " " "	22/9

If armoured, 3d. per foot extra.

Extra Limewashing Nozzles, No. 69, can be supplied at 5/6 each.

" " Spraying Nozzles, No. 51, " 4/6 "

Any other part of the machine can be replaced at any time by quoting name  
of pattern and date supplied.

LIME.—If you have any difficulty in obtaining good Lime, we can supply  
barrels containing nearly 1 cwt. of Buxton Lime, at 9/- per  
barrel. CARRIAGE FORWARD. This Lime is very economical  
in use and will go as far as 2 or 3 cwts. of ordinary Lime. It  
is also free from grit.



"Four Oaks" Patent Agitator.  
No. 44

For use with bucket types of machine.  
A most useful little contrivance for  
stirring up liquid instantly.

We recommend every user of bucket  
machines to purchase one of these.

When ordering, state for which  
machine it is required.

Price, 6/-

Copyright, 1912

We now make up special Repair and Spare Parts Outfits for each machine. Please send for List.



Now awarded  
30 GOLD & SILVER MEDALS.  
Every Genuine "FOUR OAKS"  
Machine bears our Registered  
Trade Mark.



Beware of inferior imitations  
which, though possibly cheaper,  
are worthless and costly in the  
end.

The "FOUR OAKS" machines  
are reliable.

# The "FOUR OAKS"

RELIABLE GOLD MEDAL

## Spraying & Limewashing Machines.



The "ROYAL" Pattern. £3 18 6.

No Farmer, Cowkeeper, Dairy-  
man, &c., can afford to be without  
one of these machines.

The "FOUR OAKS" machines  
have powerful pumps giving plenty  
of force behind the Spray, which  
ensures penetration of the fluid  
into all the minute cracks and  
crevices where disease and pests  
breed, and which cannot be  
reached by a brush.

Awarded PREMIER Honours at all the  
leading Shows.

Latest Successes! Two Gold and Two Silver  
Medals, Hexham Great Fruit Congress, Oct. 1910.

Between two and three hundred  
square feet of surface can be  
—limewashed in five minutes.—

These Machines are suitable for  
**Spraying and Limewashing**  
of every description.

Invaluable not  
only for  
Limewashing  
Buildings, but  
for Spraying  
Cattle and Sheep  
for Fly, Fruit  
Trees for Insect  
Pests  
&c.

Save  
their  
cost in  
one  
week,  
and do  
the  
work  
better.



The "DAIRYMAN" Pattern. £2 17 6.

The "FARMER," a cheaper Pattern. £1 19 6.

A customer writes:—"With one of your machines I have completed my whitewashing,  
which usually takes 3 days, in 1½ hours, and the work is done better."

Sole Patentees and Manufacturers:

**The "FOUR OAKS" Spraying Machine Co.,**  
Spraying Specialists, No. 44, SUTTON COLDFIELD, BIRMINGHAM.

Complete Catalogues free on application.



In 1913 WCG Ludford submitted a further Patent application which was accepted in July 1914 - ref 1913016492 for improvements in the construction of Spraying Machine.

**STOCK LINES ready**  **for immediate delivery.**

## The "Four Oaks" Gold Medal Spraying & Lime-washing Machines

**THE ORIGINAL AND BEST MACHINES ON THE MARKET**



**"FARMER" Pattern**  
 Powerful Brass Pump, suitable for spraying any Liquid, including Limewash  
 Capacity 4 gallons.  
**THE CHEAPEST RELIABLE LIMEWASHER OBTAINABLE**  
 Complete with 6 ft. best quality Hose, Strainer, Spraying and Limewashing Nozzles.  
**£3 2 6**  
 Agitator, if desired, 6/- extra.  
 Unchokable Nozzle, if desired, 2/- extra.



**"DAIRYMAN" Pattern**  
 Capacity 6 gallons.  
 Very Strong Container.  
 Complete with 6 ft. best quality Hose, Strainer, Spraying Nozzle (which also forms Straight Jet) and Limewashing Nozzle.  
**£4 0 0**  
 Agitator, if desired, 6/- extra.  
 Unchokable Nozzle, if desired, 2/- extra.

**MANUFACTURERS OF SPRAYING SPECIALITIES**



**"TRIUMPH" Pattern**  
 Double Action Lever Pump  
 Efficient Air Chamber, complete with 10 ft. best Armoured Hose, Brass Spraying Arm with Stopcock, Strainer, Spraying Nozzle (which also forms straight Jet), and Limewashing Nozzle.  
**£5 5 0**  
 Agitator, if desired, 6/- extra.  
 Unchokable Nozzle if desired, 2/- extra.



**The "VICTOR" Pattern**  
 6 gallon container.  
 The Cheapest Machine we make for wheeling about.  
 Complete as illustrated with 10 ft. Hose, Spraying and Limewashing Nozzles, etc.  
**£7 10 0**

**TO MEET THE HOME AND OVERSEAS MARKETS**

**"FOUR OAKS" GOLD MEDAL KNAPSACK SPRAYERS**  
 The machines which have beaten other makes in open competition again and again.  
 Government approved Standard Pattern.  
 The "Four Oaks" External Type. The "Four Oaks" Internal Type



No. 101  
 Brass Ball Valves, Brass Pump, all working parts outside container.  
**£4 10 0**



No. 106  
 The original type of Knapsack Sprayer, with Rubber diaphragm pump and rubber valves.  
**£4 10 0**

**The "BRIDGWATER" Pattern**  
 An exceptionally good Limewashing and Spraying Machine.  
 The machine we recommend for heavy work.  
 The special feature of this Pump is that the pump bucket works entirely outside the liquid.  
 This Machine secured "Tropical Life" Gold Medal at the International Rubber Exhibition, London, in competition with other makes.  
 Also makes an efficient fire extinguisher.  
**£17 10 0**  
 This high-class machine consists of an 18-gallon Galvanised Tank with powerful Gun-metal Pump, Agitator, 15 ft. of 3-ply best quality Armoured Hose, Brass Tube with Tap, special Spraying Nozzle for Limewash, also Nozzle for Fruit Tree Spraying, and a plain Jet for Washing with water, Strainer, etc.



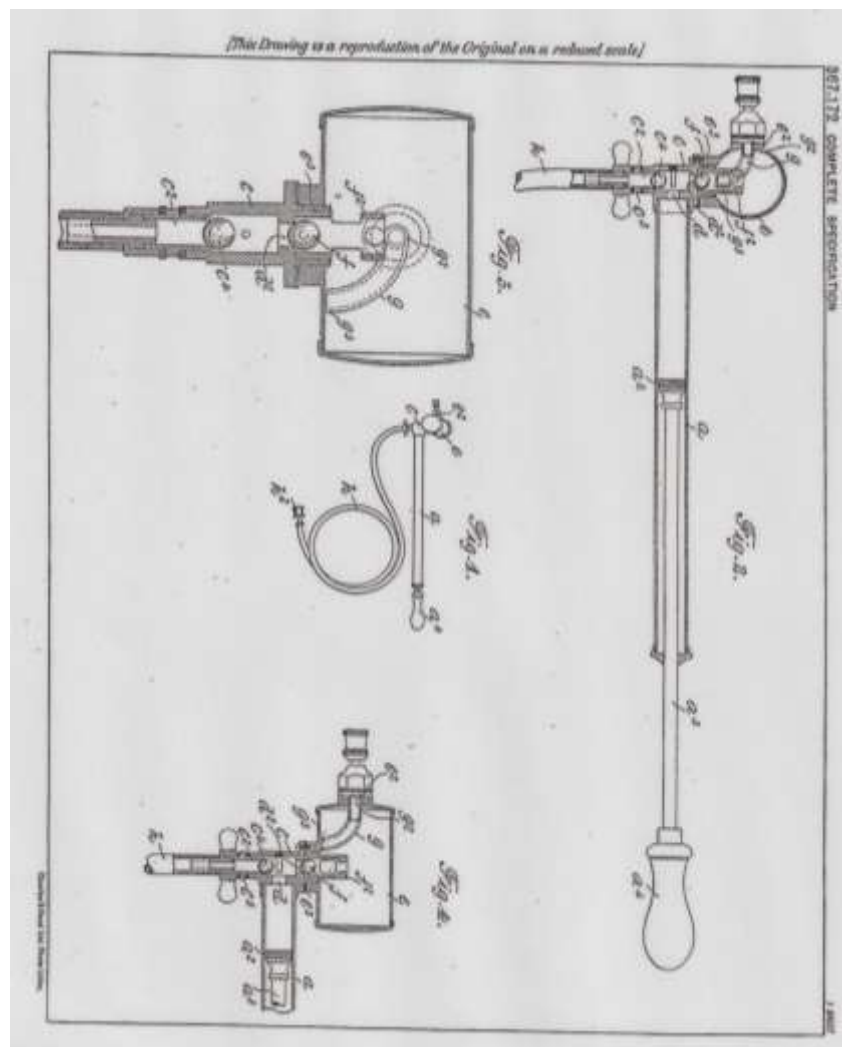
Complete Catalogues, containing full Lists of Four Oaks Spraying, Limewashing and Disinfecting Machines, from £2/6 each; also Spraying Pumps, from 32/6, Spraying Syringes, Garden Syringes and General Horticultural Brassfoundry, free on application to the Sole Manufacturers:

**THE "FOUR OAKS" SPRAYING MACHINE CO.,** **FOUR OAKS Sutton Coldfield, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
 Telegrams and Cables: "SPRAYERS, FOUR OAKS." Codes: A B C and WESTERN UNION. Telephone: No. 395 SUTTON COLDFIELD.

The above and many other lines are kept ready in stock for immediate delivery.

Limewashing not surprisingly featured heavily in their range of equipment, as this was a regular activity to be undertaken and often very laborious. The spraying machines sold ranged from their “Farmer” Pattern, a 4 gallon limewasher, a bucket with a powerful brass stirrup pump built into it which could also be used for spraying any liquid, including limewash, costing £3 2s 6d, to, eventually in the 1950’s, two mechanised sprayers the “Self Propelled”. This initially featured two 12 1/2 gallon drums with horizontal spray bars and lances. Powered by a single cylinder 4-stroke Villiers industrial engine, coupled to a three-speed Albion motorcycle gearbox and double reduction chain drive to the single axle, it required minimal effort to operate. The liquid was drawn simultaneously from both tanks and passed through a filter before entering a Brook pump driven via a V-belt directly off the engine and thence via an adjusting valve to the spray bars at the front of the machine. The liquid could be delivered either in a horizontal style across a 10 foot spread of the bars or could be altered to deliver it vertically to bushes etc. In 1959 the cost was £135. Later a further version was built offering a total capacity of 55 gallons but based on the design essentially that of the 25 gallon example. This would cost £218 10s 0d.

1931 saw a further Patent Application by WCG Ludford, Accepted 1932, patent Ref 367172. This resulted in the introduction of a new Sprayer known as The Marvel. Below is a copy of the drawing that accompanied the patent application showing various cross sections of the construction.





Advertisements were regularly placed in numerous publications, a selection showing the range of variations produced is shown below:

"Milling" December 17, 1938

747

eam at

## FOUR OAKS

### Sprayers

Mr. R. Sugden Ireland, and Mr. the 9th inst. to s attending the College. Mr. E. Education Com-stomary ability, Green, Messrs. schell, E. Collier, (er), T. Andrews, and Mr. Maxwell

ing Millers' team /est of England rs as the "high and the fact that hich the Young part, the Young zest and a sense oyed the barrage

ceeded to say, estions with the uth. Age brings putation—more's everything with its way in a maze es of experience, teams of Young I think that is

n of the Young ed Bristol on the In passing, the n excellent effort

For far better, lower-cost whitewashing, creosoting, disinfecting, deodorising. Keep the mill, stores, out-buildings, sweet and clean always by constant spraying. Six-gallon sprayer (pictured) with 10 feet armoured hose, strainer, and varying nozzles for all kinds of spraying, including fruit-trees. **Price 121/-**. Similar sprayer mounted on wheel for easy transit. **Price 172/6**

DAIRY FARMER (Leicester) says :  
"The six-gallon sprayer has given me seven years' splendid service, and is still working well."

**MAIDS OF FARM AND DAIRY FIND PLEASURE IN THIS DELIGHTFULLY EASY, QUICK, CLEAN SPRAYING. WHITEWASHING IS NOT NOW A TIRESOME TASK. NOBODY TIRES WITH A F.O. SPRAYER.**

M.R.C.V.S. (Somerset), says :—  
"A most satisfactory means of distributing disinfecting fluids. The penetrating, finely-divided spray ensures thoroughness, and economises materials."



**SPRAYERS OF ALL KINDS MADE AT FOUR OAKS**

Please write for  
FULL LIST  
(40 pages) Free.

—Telephone—Four Oaks 305—  
**THE FOUR OAKS SPRAYMACHINE CO.,  
BELFLO WORKS, FOUR OAKS, B'HAM.**

A.O.

# FOUR OAKS SPRAYERS

Four Oaks  
"Bridgwater" Pat-  
tern. 18 gallons. For  
large Orchards and  
Gardens. £22 3 0



GOLD MEDAL

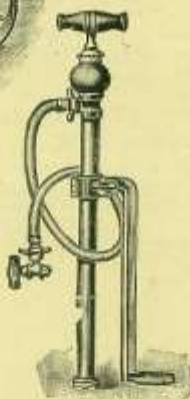
for  
GARDEN  
GREENHOUSE  
AND  
FACTORY USE



The Four Oaks "Excelsior"  
Bucket Sprayer. 36/6  
The ORIGINAL and BEST  
Spraying and Limewashing  
Machines on the Market



Four Oaks "Farmer" Pat-  
tern. Powerful Brass Pump,  
suitable for spraying any  
liquid, including Limewash.  
Capacity 4 gallons. £3 19 6



Four Oaks Bucket  
Pump Sprayer  
"Colonial" Pattern for  
Spraying Fowl-houses,  
etc. £1 15 6  
"Colonial Junior,"  
£1 10 0  
A lighter form of above.

Copper  
£5 14 0  
or tinned for  
use with  
Lime  
Sulphur  
£6 4 0

No. 101  
Four Oaks  
Knapsack  
Sprayer for  
Potato  
Spraying.



ALL IRONMONGERS SHOULD STOCK "FOUR OAKS" SPRAYERS

SEND FOR COMPLETE CATALOGUES TO THE SOLE MAKERS

The "FOUR OAKS" SPRAYING MACHINE CO.  
FOUR OAKS WORKS, FOUR OAKS, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

Prices are subject to conditions prevailing when Orders are received.



# All Timber Merchants should adopt THE "FOUR OAKS"



Illustration shows Four Oaks "Wizard"  
Pattern limewashing a wall.

## WAY OF QUICK AND EASY

### LIMEWASHING and CREOSOTING and DISINFECTING

**Advantages:** With a "Four Oaks" Machine 500 square feet can be beautifully limewashed in 10 minutes without splashing or inconvenience, and no scaffolding being necessary reduces the risk of accidents.

One coat applied with a machine on rough, uneven walls or surfaces is equal to two coats applied with a brush.

Also, the material, being applied as a spray by a powerful pump, is driven into cracks and crevices where disease and insect pests breed, and where no brush could ever reach.

With a machine a man can do as much in half an hour as in a day with a brush.

Another great saving is made owing to scaffolding being unnecessary; it being possible with the aid of an extension lance to spray to a height of 25 feet without any scaffolding.

Ceilings very easily limewashed.

**90 per cent. of labour bill saved. All cost of scaffolding saved.** Work done far better than it could ever be done with a brush in one-tenth the time.

**So Easy! So Quick! So Little Mess! Such a Beautiful Even Coat!**

**Price of "Wizard" Pattern,** as illustrated (capacity 6 gallons) and complete with 10-ft. rubber hose and 2 nozzles .. **£7 5 0**

**Four Oaks "Wizard-de-Luxe" Pattern,** as above, but with strong corrugated iron container and armoured hose. An excellent machine for hard wear .. **£7 13 0**

**Other patterns:** "Farmer," 91/6 "Farmer-de-Luxe," 99/6 "Dairyman," 117/-

### The Four Oaks "FARMER-DE-LUXE" Pattern

Capacity 4 gallons. Powerful brass pump suitable for spraying any liquid, including Limewash. Complete with 6-ft. armoured hose, 2 nozzles, and strainer. Very strong fluted Bucket .. **99/6**

"Farmer" Pattern, as above, but plain bucket and plain hose, &c. .. **91/6**

*Complete Catalogues free on application to the Sole Manufacturers:*

**The Four Oaks Spraying Machine Co.**  
**Four Oaks Works, Four Oaks, Birmingham**

*Tel.: FOUR OAKS 305 Telegrams: "SPRAYER, FOUR OAKS"*



**Insist on having genuine Four Oaks machines with Registered Trade Mark, and refuse cheap, worthless imitations**



**99/6**



The 1950's also saw the start a range of both tractor mounted sprayers and tractor trailer units being offered with tank capacities ranging from 40 to 60 gallons for the tractor mounted and 40 to 300 gallons for the tractor trailer units

The range of machines they offered was, to say the least, extensive. On page 1 of catalogue number 35, date estimated to be around 1930 as I have an invoice from this time dated October 25th 1930 with a price for an identifiable sprayer whose price on invoice matches that as in the price list, Introduction, reference is made on this insofar that they claimed to 'Be by far the largest actual manufacturers of sprayers in Great Britain'.

Detailed examination and cross referencing of catalogues currently in my possession at February 2023, indicates that basic models and variations thereof, and excluding pipework, nozzles, fittings, etc; number approaching 190. Catalogue 35 indicated that, through competitions entered, they had received over 60 Gold and Silver Medals.

WITHOUT THIS  
REGISTERED  
TRADE MARK



MACHINES ARE  
**NOT**  
GENUINE  
"FOUR OAKS"  
**MAKE.**

## Introduction.

IT is with very great satisfaction that we are enabled once again to report the continued and unparalleled success of the "Four Oaks" Sprayers. Everywhere the "Four Oaks" have secured the PREMIER position, until now they have achieved the proud distinction of obtaining

**OVER 60 GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS,**

which is a world's record for Sprayers. One award was Gold Medal, International Rubber Exhibition, London, 1914.

By making a special study of Spraying and Limewashing, and by consulting practical horticulturists and fruit growers, we have been enabled, as manufacturers, to attain the best results. Our aim has been, and will continue to be, to make the "FOUR OAKS" SPRAYERS

**THE BEST IN THE WORLD,**  
AND BRITISH MADE THROUGHOUT.

noted for their reliability, good workmanship, and excellent finish. Every machine in this list is always in stock, and despatch is guaranteed per return.

We claim to be by far the largest actual manufacturers of Sprayers in Great Britain, and our machines have a reputation all over the world.

**WARNING TO INTENDING BUYERS.**

Owing to the great success of the "Four Oaks" machines, and the satisfaction they always give, several manufacturers, finding they are unable to sell their own machines, have made up machines to LOOK LIKE the "Four Oaks."

This speaks for itself. Do not buy a limewashing or spraying machine without seeing the "Four Oaks" trade mark on it. Thousands of testimonials received from delighted users.

1

A number of the competitions in which they were successful included:-

Wisbech Fruit Growers Association Spraying Demonstration April 22nd 1909  
 Silver Gilt Medal for Knapsack Sprayer  
 Bath and West Rochester 1910 First Prize for Knapsack Sprayers  
 Sussex Agricultural Show 1910 Silver Medal for Knapsack Sprayers  
 Hexham Fruit Congress October 1910 2 Gold Medals  
 Royal Horticultural International Exhibition, 1912, Silver Cup for Sprayers  
 RHS Trials of Spraying Machines and Syringes, Wisley Grounds, April 23,  
 1913, Highest Awards for Spraying Machines, Garden Syringes, Spraying  
 Nozzles and Special Award for Knapsack Sprayers  
 International Rubber Exhibition, London 1914 - 1 Gold Medal

While nearly all of their spraying machine patterns were given a name, the names given to a number of the models they produced were local to areas/people around the factory; i.e. "Yenton"; "Weeford", "Shenstone", "Streetly", "Maney" and "Vesey".

The letterheads used by the company made proud reference to the competitions entered and awards given as illustrated below:

FIRST PRIZE SILVER GILT MEDAL  
 AWARDED TO THE FOUR OAKS KNAPSACK SPRAYER  
 AT WISBECH SPRAYING DEMONSTRATION, APRIL 22nd 1909.  
 IN COMPETITION WITH ALL OTHER MARKS-BRITISH & FOREIGN.

Bought of

**The Four Oaks**  
 SPRAYING MACHINE CO.  
 W. COLTUPHOLD, THE MANUFACTURER.

SPECIALISTS IN  
 Syringes & Spraying Machines

TELEGRAMS: "SPRAYERS, FOUR OAKS"  
 TELEPHONE: 305 SUTTON COLDFIELD  
 FOUR OAKS UNDEXTABLE SYRINGES, SPRAYING & LIMEWASHING MACHINES.

TERMS—Strictly Not Cash Monthly.  
 We do not collect accounts; kindly, therefore,  
 cheque to be enclosed "To Messrs. J. G. Panfield & Sons Ltd."  
 Postal and P.O. orders to be made payable to  
 Four Oaks Spraying Machine Co.

**FOUR OAKS, SUTTON COLDFIELD.**  
 NEAR BIRMINGHAM.

July 29th 1935

Messrs. J. G. Panfield & Sons Ltd.,  
 25042 Agricultural Engineers, Teme Street, Tenbury

I FOUR OAKS " Cup Leather fitted to Plunger valve  
 @ 6d. nett 6

Postage 2

8

No. 59769  
 Received from J. G. Panfield & Sons  
 the sum of Pounds Shillings  
 Pence  
 FOR THE FOUR OAKS SPRAYING MACHINE CO.  
 W. C. COLTUPHOLD  
 PROPRIETOR

With Compliments and Best Thanks.

Any goods received damaged must be signed for "DAMAGED" and returned immediately per same Railway, unassigned "Carriage Free, Damaged in Transit."  
 All packages will be credited in full if returned CARRIAGE PAID in good condition within 24 days.  
 Must be advised immediately they are returned.

FIRST PRIZE SILVER GILT MEDAL  
AWARDED TO THE FOUR OAKS KNAPSACK SPRAYER,  
AT WIMBORNE SPRAYING DEMONSTRATION, APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup> 1906.  
IN COMPETITION WITH ALL OTHER MAKES-BRITISH & FOREIGN.



BOUGHT OF

THE

*Four Oaks*

SPRAYING MACHINE CO

W. C. SUTTON, Sole Proprietor



TWO  
GOLD MEDALS  
HEXHAM  
FRUIT DOGWOOD  
OCTOBER  
1900



SPECIALISTS IN

Syringes & Spraying Machines

TELEGRAMS:  
"SPRAYERS, FOUR OAKS"

TELEPHONE:  
305 SUTTON COLDFIELD.

SOLE INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS OF THE  
FOUR OAKS UNDETENTABLE SYRINGES, SPRAYING & LIMEWASHING MACHINES.

CRIMS—Strictly Net Cash Machine  
We do not collect accounts; hereby, therefore,  
result direct.  
Cheques to be crossed "Midland Bank Ltd."  
Postal and P.O. orders to be made payable to  
Four Oaks Spraying Machine Co.

FOUR OAKS. *SUTTON COLDFIELD.*

NEAR BIRMINGHAM.

Messrs William J. Markham & Son,

October 25th. 1900

Ironmongers, Market Square, Buckingham.

54553

1 FOUR OAKS "Dairyman-de-Luxe" Pattern Machine  
1 " " Unchokeable Nozzle in lieu of ordinary

4 5 6

2 0

4 7 6

less 25%

1 1 10

£ 3 5 8

Per Goods Train Carriage Forward.

*Wm J. Markham & Son*

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IMPORTANT.

All goods should be carefully examined immediately upon receipt, and in case of damage, notice must be given to the Railway Company within **THREE** days, otherwise no claim can be entertained.  
Any goods received damaged must be signed for "**DAMAGED**" and returned immediately per same Railway consigned "**Carriage Free, Damaged in Transit.**"

All packages will be credited on full if returned **CARRIAGE PAID** in good condition within 14 days.  
Must be advised immediately they are returned.



## FOUR OAKS SPRAYING MACHINES



**The "Four Oaks" Gold Medal Syringes (5).**  
(Patent). The greatest boon to the gardener ever invented. Acknowledged by all users the best syringes the world has ever seen. No gardener who has once seen these syringes will ever buy any other.



"Four Oaks" Undentable Syringe, the gardener's ideal Syringe, complete with jet as illustrated, also fine and coarse roses.

	Ladies' size	Standard size	Ladies' size
No. 1. Best quality, with teak handle	1 1/2 x 16 in. 27/6	1 1/2 x 20 in. 30/6	1 1/2 x 20 in. 43/6
No. 2. Good quality, rosewood handle	1 1/2 x 16 in. 26/-	1 1/2 x 18 in. 30/3	1 1/2 x 18 in. 30/6

Standard sizes strongly recommended.



"Four Oaks" Undentable Angle-Jointed Syringe, invaluable for syringing the undersides of leaves and branches which cannot be reached by the ordinary syringe, is the Undentable Syringe illustrated above, with the addition of an angle joint.

	Ladies' size	Standard size	Ladies' size
No. 5. Best quality, teak handle	1 1/2 x 16 in. 30/6	1 1/2 x 20 in. 46/6	1 1/2 x 20 in. 55/3
No. 6. Good quality, rosewood handle	1 1/2 x 16 in. 34/6	1 1/2 x 18 in. 40/6	1 1/2 x 18 in. 48/3

Standard sizes strongly recommended.

The "Four Oaks" Undentable Spraying Syringe. The most useful syringe it is possible to have in a garden. Gives a fine vapour or mist-like spray. Invaluable for ordinary spraying or for distributing Insecticides.



No. 9. 1 1/2 x 20 in. 21/6. 1 1/2 x 20 in. 28/6.

is fitted with quick filling ball valve. The 1 1/2 x 20 in. size strongly recommended.

The "Four Oaks" Undentable Angle-Jointed Spraying Syringe. This is the same syringe as No. 9 illustrated above, but with the addition of an angle joint for spraying the undersides of leaves and branches. An invaluable syringe.

No. 9/A. 1 1/2 x 20 in. 31/- 1 1/2 x 20 in. 38/6

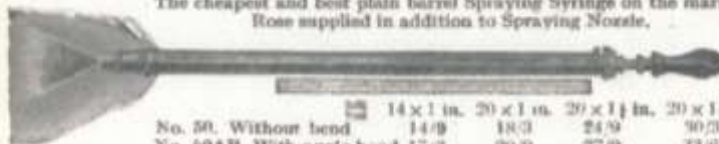
The 1 1/2 x 20 in. size strongly recommended.

Awarded a Gold Medal at Hexham Fruit Congress.



"Four Oaks" Plain Sprayer. No. 50.

The cheapest and best plain barrel Spraying Syringe on the market. Rose supplied in addition to Spraying Nozzle.

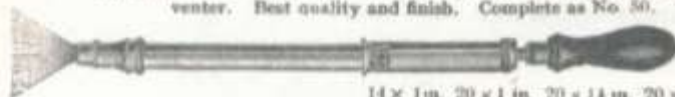


14 x 1 in. 20 x 1 in. 20 x 1 1/2 in. 20 x 1 1/2 in.

No. 50. Without bend 14/9 18/3 24/9 30/3

No. 50AB. With angle bend 17/3 20/9 27/9 33/6

No. 120 New "Four Oaks" Patent Syringe with improved Drip Preventer. Best quality and finish. Complete as No. 50.



14 x 1 in. 20 x 1 in. 20 x 1 1/2 in. 20 x 1 1/2 in.

No. 120. Without bend 18/3 21/6 29/6 34/6

No. 120AB. With angle bend 20/9 24/3 32/- 37/9

Postage extra.

(Reproduced from The CGA [Country Gentlemen's Association] General Price Book 1938)

Also in CGA Book 1929

KEEP YOUR  
**WAREHOUSES  
SWEET & CLEAN**

**LIMEWASH**



WITH THE  
**“FOUR  
OAKS”  
SPRAYERS**

YOU WILL SAVE  
**90%.**  
OF THE COST

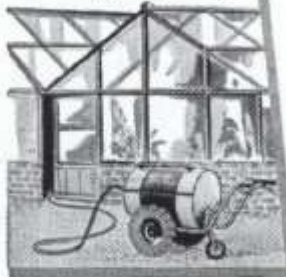
Send for catalogues and particulars

**FOUR OAKS SPRAYING MACHINE CO.**  
FOUR OAKS, SUTTON COLDFIELD, BIRMINGHAM

Advert from the 1948 Waste and Scrap Trades handbook

# FOUR OAKS

## *Self propelled - Mechanized Sprayer*



It does the work—you simply guide! Beautifully balanced and easy to use, it is suitable for general spraying in the garden, orchard or estate. The engine drives the pump and propels the machine—no hard work of any kind—just fill up and spray.

25-gallon capacity, £135 ex works. Other models in the FOUR OAKS range of Mechanized Machines include the Popular (6-gallon), the Senior (15-gallon) and Tractor-mounted and Trailer Units up to 200-gallon capacity. Fully illustrated leaflets of FOUR OAKS Sprayers for every purpose will gladly be sent on request.

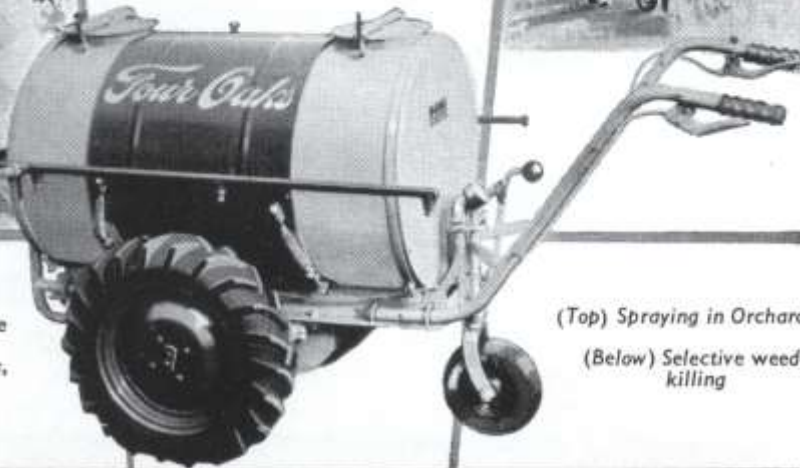


(Top) In the Greenhouse

(Below) For Raspberries,  
Beans, etc.

(Top) Spraying in Orchard

(Below) Selective weed-  
killing



**THE FOUR OAKS SPRAYING MACHINE CO. LTD.**  
**FOUR OAKS · BIRMINGHAM**

Phone : Four Oaks 1096/7/8

Grams : Sprayers · Four Oaks

From Country Life Magazine - April 1957





## "Four Oaks - The Best"

### PRICE LIST, JANUARY 1st, 1968

Prices maintained without increase for 1969

#### MECHANIZED SPRAYERS Price ex Works

	Capacity	£	s.	d.
The "Popular" Mechanized Sprayer	6 gallons	96	10	0
The "Senior" Mechanized Sprayer	15 gallons	108	10	0
The "Spraymobile", self-propelled Mechanized Sprayer	25 gallons	169	10	0
The "Spraymobile 55", self-propelled Mechanized Sprayer	55 gallons	218	10	0
Articulated Driver's Seat for Spraymobiles		10	10	0
The "Limespray", Mechanized Lime Washer, Electric Motor or Petrol Engine	25 gallons	125	0	0
The "Powerspray", High Pressure Unit		175	0	0

#### TRACTOR MOUNTED UNITS Price ex Works

	Capacity	£	s.	d.
The "Shamrock" Tractor Mounted Unit Low Volume Model 333	40 gallons	84	3	0
The "Shamrock" Tractor Mounted Unit Low/Medium Volume Model 444	60 gallons	97	7	0
The "Shamrock" Tractor Mounted Unit Low/High Volume Model 555	60 gallons	127	1	0

#### TRACTOR TRAILER UNITS Price ex Works

	Capacity	£	s.	d.
The "Shamrock" Trailer Unit Low Volume Model 333T	40 gallons	112	4	0
The "Shamrock" Trailer Unit Low/Medium Volume Model 444T	60 gallons	125	19	0
The "Shamrock" Trailer Unit Low/High Volume Model 555T	60 gallons	155	2	0
The "Major-200" Trailer Model High/Low Volume	200 gallons	275	0	0
The "Major-300" Trailer Model High/Low Volume	300 gallons	298	10	0

#### NOZZLES FOR TRACTOR UNITS

Size O — 5 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-	Size H — 40 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-
Size A — 10 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-	Size K — 60 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-
Size B — 15 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-	Size L — 70 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-
Size C — 20 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-	Size M — 80 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-
Size D — 30 g.p.a. at 4 m.p.h. 11/-	Interchangeable tips for A, B and C 2/6 each.
Recommended nozzles for each type of Machine	For Model 333, Nozzles O, A, B, C.
	For Model 444, Nozzles O, A, B, C, D, H.
	For Model 555, Nozzles O, A, B, C, D, H, K, L, M.
	For Major 200, Nozzles O, A, B, C, D, H, K, L, M.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR TRACTOR UNITS

All Models except Major 200 and 300

	£	s.	d.
Drop Legs for under leaf spraying .. .. .	18	12	9
Set of Fittings for various makes of Tractors, making interchangeable .. .. .	7	11	9
Filling Attachments .. .. .	4	19	9
Flexible couplings .. .. .	2	18	9

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Attachable No. 1 .. .. .	20	18	6	Excelsior			
Attachable No. 2 .. .. .	26	11	0	with Brass Knapsack Tank .. .. .	13	6	3
Bridgwater No. 1				Farmer .. .. .	10	16	6
with Iron Wheels .. .. .	58	11	3	Flame Gun No. 1 .. .. .	23	5	0
with Pneumatic Tyres .. .. .	70	5	6	Flame Gun No. F3 .. .. .	11	10	6
Bridgwater No. 2				Flame Gun No. F4 .. .. .	17	4	9
with Iron Wheels .. .. .	77	11	9	Flame Gun No. F5			
with Pneumatic Tyres .. .. .	89	7	0	with Hood .. .. .	27	14	3
Bodkin Flame Thrower .. .. .	28	16	6	without Hood .. .. .	26	3	3
Challenger				Handy			
with Iron Wheel .. .. .	52	14	3	with Iron Wheel .. .. .	36	19	3
with Pneumatic Tyre .. .. .	58	11	3	with Solid Rubber Tyre .. .. .	39	5	9
Chelsea .. .. .	7	2	3	with Pneumatic Tyre .. .. .	40	8	9
Colonial .. .. .	7	2	9	Kent Knapsack No. 2 .. .. .	23	15	9
Dairyman .. .. .	13	3	9	Kent Knapsack No. 4 .. .. .	21	15	3
Excelsior .. .. .	5	4	9				P.T.O.

	£	s.	d.
Kent Knapsack No. 6 .. ..	19	14	3
Knapsack No. 90N .. ..	11	5	0
Knapsack No. 90C .. ..	13	17	6
Knapsack No. 101 .. ..	17	18	9
Knapsack No. 102 .. ..	19	0	0
Knapsack No. 103 .. ..	21	2	3
Knapsack No. 501 .. ..	21	6	9
Knapsack No. 501 with Agitator .. ..	22	13	6
Knapsack No. 600 .. ..	7	13	9
Little Giant .. ..			
with Iron Wheels .. ..	38	13	3
with Solid Rubber Tyres .. ..	40	17	9
with Pneumatic Tyres .. ..	45	10	0
Maney-de-Luxe .. ..	4	0	6
Mobilizer Truck for Kent No. 2 .. ..	5	3	3
New Ideal .. ..	5	10	6
with Brass Knapsack Tank .. ..	15	11	3
Rochester .. ..	33	6	6
Ross .. ..	13	14	0
with Agitator .. ..	15	0	9
Ross-de-Luxe .. ..	18	9	0
Ross-de-Luxe with Agitator .. ..	19	15	9
Rotadusto .. ..	25	0	0
Rotadusto extension piece .. ..	12	6	
Southern Cross .. ..	13	6	0
Stafford .. ..			
with Iron Wheels .. ..	51	1	3
with Pneumatic Tyres .. ..	62	12	9
Stafford Junior .. ..			
with Iron Wheels .. ..	44	2	3
with Pneumatic Tyres .. ..	55	15	3
Stirrup Pump with Nozzle .. ..	5	0	0
Hose fitted per foot .. ..	2	0	
Streetly .. ..	7	9	0
Streetly-de-Luxe .. ..	8	1	0
Triumph .. ..	18	2	6
with Automatic Agitator extra .. ..	2	0	3
Universal complete .. ..	24	18	0
Unspillable Water Carrier extra .. ..	5	4	9
Black Creosote Container extra .. ..	4	0	6
Grid for Sacks, etc., extra .. ..	2	13	3
Victor No. 1 .. ..			
with Iron Wheel .. ..	25	7	6
with Solid Rubber Tyre .. ..	27	12	9
with Pneumatic Tyre .. ..	28	14	9
with Automatic Agitator extra .. ..	2	0	3
Victor No. 2 .. ..			
with Iron Wheel .. ..	27	5	3
with Solid Rubber Tyre .. ..	29	11	0
with Pneumatic Tyre .. ..	30	14	0
with Automatic Agitator extra .. ..	2	0	3
White Ant Exterminator .. ..	26	8	0
White Ant Powder for use with .. ..			
above, per cwt., packed 2 lb. .. ..	18	14	9
Wizard .. ..	17	6	6
with Automatic Agitator extra .. ..	2	0	3
Yenton .. ..	9	2	3

#### BRASS SYRINGES

Syringe No. F.1 .. ..	4	17	6
"  No. F.2 .. ..	5	5	0

#### WATER BARROW

20 gallons container with Lid and .. ..			
pneumatic wheels .. ..	17	0	0
30 gallons container with Lid and .. ..			
pneumatic wheels .. ..	19	10	0

#### ACCESSORIES

	£	s.	d.
*Bamboo Lance, 4ft. 0in. .. ..	2	1	6
*Bamboo Lance, 6ft. 0in. .. ..	3	8	6
*Bamboo Lance, 8ft. 0in. .. ..	3	13	9
*Bamboo Lance, 10ft. 6in. .. ..	4	1	3
*Bamboo Lance, 15ft. 0in. .. ..	5	1	9
*Standard Rod and Tap .. ..	1	4	3
Bend No. 40 .. ..	8	0	
Connecting Union No. 82 .. ..	8	0	
Constant Pressure Device No. 50 .. ..	3	17	0
*Cross Boom No. 80, 12in. .. ..	1	12	3
*Cross Boom No. 81, 24in. .. ..	2	8	6
*Cross Boom No. 82, 36in. .. ..	2	16	6
*Cross Boom No. 83, 48in. .. ..	3	4	3
*Dual Feed Boom No. 88, 9ft. .. ..	8	5	0
*Dual Feed Boom No. 89, 11ft. .. ..	9	1	0
*Extending Lance No. 37 .. ..	3	13	9
*Fork Attachment No. 35 .. ..	19	3	
*Kent Boom .. ..	2	16	6
Lengthening Piece No. 42 .. ..	9	9	
Lengthening Piece No. 42a .. ..	12	0	
Lengthening Piece No. 42b .. ..	14	6	
Nozzle No. 10, Tee jet Fine .. ..	1	1	9
Nozzle No. 10, Tip and Filter .. ..			
only .. ..	12	6	
Nozzle No. 20, Tee jet Medium .. ..	1	1	9
Nozzle No. 20, Tip and Filter only .. ..	12	6	
Nozzle No. 30, Tee jet Coarse .. ..	1	1	9
Nozzle No. 30, Tip and Filter only .. ..	12	6	
Nozzle No. 51, "Four Oaks" .. ..	11	9	
Nozzle No. 68, "Marvellous" .. ..	11	9	
Nozzle No. 69 .. ..	14	3	
Nozzle No. 71, "Unchokable" .. ..	16	3	
Nozzle No. 83, "Humidifier" .. ..	11	9	
Nozzle No. 92, "Woodford" .. ..	11	9	
Nozzle No. 93, Single Swivel .. ..	15	6	
Nozzle No. 1, Twin Swivel .. ..	1	2	3
*Side Boom No. 86, 12in. .. ..	1	12	3
*Side Boom No. 87, 24in. .. ..	2	8	6
Strainer Rod No. S.R. .. ..	18	6	
Strainer Rod No. T.R.L. .. ..	14	0	
*Trigger Release Lance .. ..	1	15	6
*Trigger Release Lance, Heavy .. ..			
Duty, screw on .. ..	2	14	6
Tube Bend No. 41 .. ..	10	6	
* Nozzles extra			

#### HOSE

1" Plain .. ..per foot	3	3
1" Armoured .. ..per foot	3	9
1 1/2" Plain .. ..per foot	2	9
1 1/2" Armoured .. ..per foot	3	3
Union for Hose 1" .. ..each	9	6
Union for Hose 1 1/2" .. ..each	8	9

#### SPARE PARTS BOXES

(Containing washers, cup leathers, etc.)

Box A .. 7/3	Box K.4 .. 14/6
Box B .. 8/9	Box K.6 .. 14/6
Box C .. 12/-	Box L .. 14/6
Box D .. 14/6	Box N .. 8/9
Box E .. 14/6	Box O .. 8/9
Box F .. 16/-	Box R .. 8/9
Box G .. 8/9	Box S .. 20/-
Box H .. 14/6	Box W .. 14/6
Box J.1 .. 12/-	Box X.1 .. 5/6
Box J.2 .. 12/-	Box Z.1 .. 11/3
Box K.1 .. 21/9	Box Z.2 .. 11/3
Box K.2 .. 14/6	

PRICES SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE

### THE FOUR OAKS SPRAYING MACHINE CO., LTD.

FOUR OAKS, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WARWICKSHIRE

Telegrams "Sprayers, Four Oaks"

Telephone 021-308 3771

NETWEIGHT  
PRINT



As mentioned earlier, an application to Companies House a while ago resulted in a microfiche of statutory documents supplied. This has revealed some of the history of the FOSMC after WWII. In 1950 a document was drawn up that resulted in the change of trading style of the company, from being solely owned by WCG Ludford to that of a Limited Company with the directors being WCG Ludford and his sons Leslie Brentnall Ludford and Lawrance Ludford. At this time WCG was in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year and, given that he passed away early in 1951, this change may well have been him putting things in order while able to do so. He is buried with his wife who predeceased him in 1937, aged 77, in the graveyard at Canwell, Staffordshire. It appears that, as a consequence of his death, the day to day running of the business was taken over by his sons Leslie and Lawrance and the business continued onwards.

Production of some sprayers was moved to Southern Ireland and a company called Sprayers Ltd was created in order to manufacture various models under licence. Outwardly, the only difference to sprayers manufactured there was a different plate affixed to the sprayers. The Copy of a document found on a website of the Irish government, that resulted from a question in the Irish parliament as to the level and number of companies set up in Eire with foreign investment, suggests that this took place between 1st January, 1955 to 31st March, 1957.

With the introduction of plastics into industry in the late 1950's and throughout the 1960's, together with a more disposable society developing, this inevitably had a detrimental effect on the company. Added to this, as many of the products were designed for large estates and country gardens, which too had seen a large decline after the war, the once profitable business appeared to falter. New companies were coming along, Hozelock appeared in 1959. Leslie Ludford passed away in 1959. The accounts of year ended 31 December, 1971 show the result with a net loss for the year of £1581.79 to which had to be added the cumulative loss from previous years of £21022.31, resulting in a debit balance of £22604.10 carried forward.

The report also reported the impending sale of the freehold premises which comprised the works and offices of the Company, with a book value of £1719 for the sum of approximately £45,000. 1972 saw the trading situation appear to deteriorate further with a loss of £4569.27 and 1974 saw the death of Lawrance Ludford and his son E.N Ludford becoming a director. The 1974 Annual Report confirmed that "The Company's Works and Offices situated on the north side of Belwell Lane were sold in August 1972.

During 1975 the freeholds of some of the properties on the south side of Belwell Lane were sold, including the remaining assembly shop and offices at 11 Belwell Lane. The 14<sup>th</sup> January 1977 saw the effective closure of the FOSMC as a manufacturing concern as the Company's stock in trade was sold to the purchaser of the Company's business for £7,750.00. Investigation has revealed that The Willcox Group purchased the business, as manufacturers of machine tools and machine tool lubrication systems with premises in Kings Road, Tyseley, Birmingham. One of their subsidiaries was The Phillip B Waldron Co. Ltd, using the brand name Dronwal. This date also saw the cancellation of the Company's VAT registration by H.M Customs and Excise. The only income then became that derived from the letting of certain of its remaining Freehold properties combined with ground rents receivable. This continued until 24<sup>th</sup>

March 1986 when the remaining freehold investment property was sold for the sum of £76,500, after selling expenses were deducted.

This drew the line under what had probably been the most well known brand of spraying machines made in the Midlands, possibly the country and maybe the world. This was confirmed in December 1986 when the directors recommended to the members that the Company be placed into voluntary liquidation. This took place and the process was completed with the Company being fully wound up on 15 September 1987. What remains is a wonderful heritage based upon the surviving examples of their products together with the detailed literature that was used in promoting the business while trading.

### **Sources of Information.**

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Ludford Photographs of Company Buildings from slides loaned by M Baxter

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April 28 1909 - re Wisbech Fruit Growers Association Sprayer Demonstration April

22, 1909.

Copyright 1912 Spraying and Limewashing Machines - Directions for Use - with some prices

Invoice July 25th, 1925 from FOSMCO to Messrs J. G. Banfield and Sons,

Agricultural Engineers, Teme Street, Tenbury.

Invoice October 25th, 1930 to Messrs William J Markham & Son, Ironmongers,

Market Square, Buckingham re Sale of Four Oaks "Dairyman-de-Luxe" pattern

machine with Unchokable Nozzle In Lieu of Ordinary.

Four Oaks Catalogue and Price List Re Catalogue 35 - undated

Advertisement from The Ironmonger Buyers Guide 1937

Copies of Advertisements from Milling December 1938 June 1939 & December 1939

Advertisement from The Ironmonger Buyers Guide, 1946

Advertisement from Timber Trades Directory, 1948

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Four Oaks Spraymobile Advert Country Life Magazine April 1957

Dail Eireann - Volume 207 - 25 February 1964 Ceisteanna - Questions. Oral Answers.

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Price List dated January 1st 1968, and sub heading Prices maintained without increase for 1969.

*Adrian Lanchester-Hale  
February 2023*