



Pellenc P2000 electronic pruner



Husqvarna 235P reaches up to 13 feet



Power Pruner 1250, from Technic Tool

TREE PRUNERS

by TERRY McIVER / Managing Editor

Tree pruning is one of the most labor-intensive green industry jobs. It's essential that your tools are lightweight and easy to use.

"Generally, if you look at landscape business and crew activity, [landscapers] are going for a bigger piece of the pie," says Mark Michaels, senior forestry manager at Husqvarna. "Companies doing hedgework and young trees will see it as a logical step to move on to larger, 15- to 20-foot trees. It's natural for a landscape management company handling a housing development to try to get the tree pruning work, but you have to do it right."

Butch Rhoton, president of Brewt Power Systems of Atwater, Calif., says the most important question to ask when shopping is, "What type of pruning are you doing?" The answer determines whether you should go with a pneumatic or gas-powered pruner.



Gilmour's 150400, from Ben Meadows Co.



Maibo pneumatic is easy to use

Pneumatic pruners, those used for high-production pruning, are your best choice for branches of two inches diameter or less, and it's no secret that a pneumatic pruner gives you a cleaner cut due to the speed at which the blades operate.

"The branch heals better, and it's better for the aesthetics of the tree," explains Rhoton.

"Pneumatic shears are lighter and quicker," says Rhoton, "and you can do lots of sucker branch trimming. If you're only cutting two or three limbs, use a gasoline-powered unit. But at an office complex, where there's much pruning to be done and you're making 50 cuts per tree, you want something that's quick, and pneumatic is the only way to go."

Before you even buy, however, you or people on your crew should be certified. Contact the National Arborist Association for information at (800) 733-2622.

If you're thinking about adding tree pruning to your service mix, know the importance of proper training, and know the capabilities and/or limitations of the equipment you use. **LM**

EXTENDED-REACH TREE PRUNERS FOR THE GREEN INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL

Company	Product/specifications
Brushking (800) 959-2887 Circle 280	A new 6'6" lopping shear allows a man of average height to get a 12' reach into a tree. It cuts a 1 1/2-inch limb. A pivoting head allows the operator to get at hard-to-reach limbs.
Echo (800) 432-3246 Circle 281	The "Aggressor" reaches limbs up to 14 ft. tall. Powered by a 21.2 cc engine, the Aggressor's reciprocating action cutting stroke and exclusively designed blade remove limbs up to 4 1/2 inches in diameter. The unit weighs 11.4 lbs.
Corona (800) 241-6401 Circle 282	Professional Pole Pruner System offers a choice of two heads, a pruner and saw blade; 6-ft. fiberglass poles. Pruner head cuts limbs up to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Phone number is for distributor Ben Meadows Co.
Fanno Saw Works Circle 283	Pruning saws and accessories using quality steel and craftsmanship. Single-blade, manual pole saws reach up to 16 ft.
Felco (206) 827-7676 Circle 284	Considered the quality standard for the tree pruning industry, Felco manufactures a wide variety of hand-held pruners, limb loppers, saws and pneumatic pole pruners.
Gilmour (800) 241-6401 Circle 285	Gilmour makes a wide range of products. Its professional rope-type pruner cuts limbs up to one inch in diameter. Heavy-duty iron pruner head and three wooden poles reach to 18 feet. Gear-driven tree pruner includes multi-power dual pulley system with gear drive, telescoping fiberglass pole that adjusts from six to 12 feet. An 18-foot unit is also available.
Husqvarna (800) 487-5962 Circle 286	The 235P is a gasoline-operated model available with bypass lopper or anvil pruning head. Cuts branches up to 1.5 inches in diameter. Telescoping pole provides up to a 13-foot reach. Two pole lengths are available. The 250PS comes with a 3.0 cu.in. 2.4 hp engine with 11,000 maximum no-load RPMs.
Lesco (800) 321-5325 Circle 287	Hand pruners, lopping shears and tree trimming pole saws are available. Pole tree trimming saws feature 16-inch blades, and reach up to 12 feet in height.
Maibo (800) 255-9180 Circle 288	The Maibo Pneumatic Pruning System is lightweight and easy to operate. Limbs can be cut with the light squeeze of a trigger. Pruner is designed for low maintenance. Models for vineyard and nursery shearing and high-volume pruning weigh from 1.32 lbs. to 6.17 lbs. Compressors are also available as engine- or P.T.O.-type.
Mid-Continent Industries (800) 279-6812 Circle 289	The Limb-A-Nator is an extender for use with 28 different manufacturers' chain saws. Mid-Continent reports the Limb-A-Nator safely trims or prunes limbs from ground level. It extends chain saws by almost seven feet. Bolts in place of existing cutter bar on most popular chain saws. The chain drive is safely enclosed inside shaft. The cutter bar and chain are lubricated by an oiling system within the wand.
Pellenc P2000 (702) 826-4611 Circle 290	This electronic pruner was designed for creating prized Gallic grapevines, and can handle the needs of demanding horticultural professionals, says Pellenc America. The tool is powered by a lightweight battery carried in a belt pack. Tangle-resistant cable carries 24-volt, DC current to a special motor in the cutting head's comfortable hand grip. An electronic system provides total control of the blade action. Slow trigger movement opens and closes the blades slowly; a quick pull of the trigger moves the cutting blades at lightning speed.
Stanley (503) 659-5660 Circle 291	Pole chain saws, circle saws and pneumatic pruners for right-of-way crews, utilities, parks departments and landscape managers. Heavy duty pruner operates from tree trimming vehicle or bucket truck. Circle saw uses a unique one-piece angled motor and yoke for durability.
Technic Tool (800) 243-9592 Circle 292	The Power Pruner PP1250 gasoline-powered pruner weighs 16.3 lbs. without extensions. Fiberglass shaft housing, standard shoulder strap, automatic oil reservoir, 44 drive links, chain speed is 2000 ft. per minute. A five-foot extension allows for maximum 22-foot reach.