

STUMP CUTTERS

The idea is to grind the stump into pieces or cut it apart, not smash it into oblivion.

by CURT HARLER



Husqvarna's 272S is a lightweight stump grinder with an 8-inch steel blade and anti-vibration technology. It folds and stores compactly.

To get the best use out of a stump cutter, make sure the teeth are sharp. A good set of carbide cutting teeth will last from two to four hours with normal operation. Of course, an old oak stump will be tougher to remove than freshly-cut pine. Teeth should be sharpened after every four hours or after each job, whichever is sooner.

First, and foremost, say engineers with Vermeer, Pella, IA, keep safety in mind when sharpening teeth. Disengage the clutch, stop the engine and be sure all motion is fully stopped.

Engineers at Crary Co., West Fargo, ND, recommend dry grinding when sharpening carbide teeth. It reduces the chance of cracking from insufficient coolants. It also allows better visibility and longer wheel life because you will have better control of the grinding action.

Be sure to move cutting teeth constantly whenever they are in contact with the grinding wheel. This has two advantages: it reduces the chance of uneven wear on the teeth, and it reduces heat concentration which often will damage the tooth. Carbide will retain its sharpness longer, cut faster and smoother, and will withstand the heat of use, but carbide teeth will wear.



One of two models from Mackissic, Inc. Both with reversible handle bars. Automatic, self-aligning cutter head-to-shaft. Units require only two inches of clearance from walls, fences, trees.

Engineers at MacKissic, Parker Ford, PA, note that keeping the teeth sharp will prevent frustration at the job site. The "digger" teeth on their cutters must be sharpened constantly because they are the most abused of the teeth. The diggers are the teeth set at a 45-degree angle. Other teeth are set at 25 degrees or straight.

Sharpen the carbide portions of the teeth with a silicon carbide grinding wheel, the green-colored wheels. Steel sections should be cut with an aluminum oxide wheel. Steel can be ground with a carbide wheel (the gray ones), but the wheel will last longer if aluminum oxide is used. Carbide is a bit like the Wicked Witch of the West...although it's really tough, it can't tolerate water. Putting carbide cutter teeth into water immediately after grinding will crack the carbide tip. Avoid grinding on the face of the carbide which will reduce its thickness and weaken it, making it susceptible to chipping. Lastly, be certain the teeth or cutter wheel get bolted back on the machine at the recommended tightness. Don't over-torque. It is a good idea to retorquing screws after running the machine for a couple of hours.

STUMP CUTTERS

J. P. CARLTON
(800) 243-9335
Circle No. 250

Models range from a 25 hp Kohler-powered unit,—the Model 2500-4—to a 106 hp turbo-charged Deutz Diesel. An economical tow behind unit, the Model 3500 has an optional remote control. The Model 7500 is built with a 1½-inch thick, 31-inch diameter cutter wheel with 48 teeth.

CRARY BEAR CAT
(800) 247-7335

Circle No. 251
Two tough units — the Bear Cat 71755 and 71785 — make quick work of stumps. The 71785 features a 7-inch diameter cutter head and a large enclosed drive shaft which prevents chips from building up in the belts and pulleys. The two-belt cutter-head drive system assures more positive power transfer. Unit runs on a Briggs & Stratton 8.5 hp industrial/commercial engine. The 71785 will remove an 8-inch diameter stump, 8-inches tall (four above ground, four below) in four minutes. A 15-inch diameter stump the same height is gone in 14 minutes. A single wheel brake allows the grinder to pivot and keep in position while grinding the stump.

HECKENDORN EQUIPMENT CO.

(800) 835-7805
Circle No. 252

Mounted on their own towable trailers, the Heckendorn Stump Remover line's depth of cut is controlled by a hand screw that makes it easy to adjust for maximum removal on each pass. Units come with four or six replaceable carbide teeth which can cut stumps standing 12 to 14 inches above ground and down to four to six inches below grade in minutes. The full 45 inch swing on the cutter disk ensures that even multiple stumps can be cut cleanly and simply. These are hefty units: the smallest, the 80301 with a 8 hp Kohler recoil start engine, weighs 350 pounds; the 80307-1 is 480 pounds and powered by a 13 hp Honda with electric start. Several models are in between. All have 2-inch trailer hitch balls. Just 32 inches wide.

HODGES MANUFACTURING CO.
(501) 492-6116

Circle No. 253

The Bull and the Rhino stump cutters from Hodges Manufacturing, Mountain Home, AK, both are powered by 25 hp Kohler engines, and both feature standard carbide teeth. The Bull features a 15.25-inch cutter wheel and digs down 10 inches below the ground surface. It will handle stumps up to 24 inches above grade. The machine is less than a yard wide and weighs 715 pounds. The Rhino paws down 16 inches below grade and can handle stumps up to three feet high. It comes equipped with a hitch for easy transportation, and its sliding axle (from 34 inches to 52 inches) allows it to move through standard gates. Both units feature key start.

HUSQVARNA
(704) 597-5000

Circle No. 254
The 2725 is a lightweight stump grinder with the latest in anti-vibration and decompression valve technology. The unit uses an 8-inch steel blade with tungsten carbide tips. It is ideal for tree services, landscape contractors and companies that offer stump removal services, says the company. The unit folds and stores compactly for easy transport. With "Smart Start" decompression valve, a simple push of a button opens a cylinder valve that reduces pressure during the piston up-stroke, making the starter cord easier to pull. LowVib, two-mass anti-vibration system completely separates the engine section from the handle to dampen vibration.

LEVCO MANUFACTURERS, INC.

(800) 524-9252
Circle No. 255

The HD45 grinder from Levco is a self-propelled model that fits through tight places. Its hydraulic drive makes operation safe for the operator and the unit is easy to keep running — there are no grease fittings, no gears to replace, no V-belts to align, no chains to break. The larger TM540 works with any 30-80 hp tractor equipped with a 540 rpm pto. Optional chip curtain contains chips and sawdust produced by the spinning cutter drum. The TM540 will cut stumps of any diameter from 12 inches above grade to 12 inches below. The



The SG50 stump grinder with the 763H Bobcat. Its 3-inch wide cutting head has 34 teeth, and cuts down 20 inches below grade.

HD47D is a self-contained grinder that's pulled behind a pickup truck. Operating off a John Deere 40 hp diesel engine, it can cut stumps from 44 inches above grade to 22 inches below.

MACKISSIC, INC.
(610) 495-7181

Circle No. 256
Handle even the toughest stump removal jobs with the Mighty Mac stump cutters from MacKissic, Parker Ford, PA. The new CPSC9V, with 9 hp Vanguard gas engine, joins the 5.5 hp CPSC5.5V. Both have reversible handle bars for front or rear cutting. The hefty 14-pound patented cutter head has the weight and speed for fast, smooth cutting. The cutter head is set 30 degrees off vertical, allowing it to work like a router. With teeth positioned at 45, 25 and zero-degree angles, the units require lower horsepower to cut through stumps. The automatic, self-aligning cutter head-to-shaft assures correct balance. These units require only two inches of clearance from walls, fences or other trees.

MELROE BOBCAT
(701) 241-8700

Circle No. 257
Attach your stump grinder to a Bobcat loader and go to work. The SG25 has 16 carbide-tipped teeth. The head can be sideshifted 25 inches without moving the loader and will cut 12 inches below grade. The larger SG50 is designed for the 763H and 853H loaders (with high horsepower and high-flow hydraulics). Its 3-inch wide cutting head has 34 teeth and will grind down to 20 inches below grade.

The head can be sideshifted 50 inches without moving the loader. A control kit must be installed inside the skid-steer's cab before using a stump cutter. The whole system makes it easy to switch over to a bucket to pick up debris.

STEINER
(216) 828-0200
CIRCLE NO. 258

The front-mounted quick hitch SC 101 stump cutter from Steiner features a heavy flywheel type cutter-head and hardened cutters. It chips away a stump by moving back-and-forth at a controlled depth. Cutter depth is managed by the front lift while side-to-side motion is governed by the tractor's steering. The unit weighs 250 pounds, is 34.5 inches wide and 18 inches long. Operating at 1600 rpm, it digs down to five inches below the surface.

VERMEER
(888) 837-6337
CIRCLE NO. 259

The newest model in Vermeer's line of stump cutters is the 252SC, equipped with the Auto Sweep function. It works like a car's cruise control—maintaining engine speed by adjusting the feed rate of the cutter wheel. This gives maximum horsepower needed to cut stumps. The 252SC is just 35 inches wide, yet handles stumps 13 inches deep and 39 inches wide with its 1250 rpm 16-tooth cutter wheel. The firm's most powerful stump cutter is the 1102, with 102 hp. It handles stumps up to 25 inches deep and up to 88 inches wide and also has Auto Sweep. The 1102 is powered by a Perkins T4.236 turbo diesel engine, and is 4650 pounds. **LM**