

Mulcher Roundup

There are many reasons to mulch... and just as many solutions

Overgrown vegetation and unwanted trees. How do you deal with them efficiently? One way, which avoids the need to burn or haul the debris, is to use a mulching machine.

There are many reasons for needing to mulch – rights of way, fence construction, wildlife habitat restoration and estate development to name a few. Equally there are a variety of machines on the market to help with the task. We take a look at what is on offer.

New from Ahwi, the 'M' series has a new design of rotor housing with improved and strengthened linkage mounting points, and a new rotor design with bolted-in stub shafts and improved end designs, leading to better bearing protection, particularly against the wrapping of wire.

The smallest machine, the M500, is ideal for lower hp tractors, particularly for the smaller contractor and estate maintenance work.

At the other end of the scale is the new M700, now available with turbo clutches in the drive line between the gearbox and the belt drives.

When you come across that 'unexpected' stump hidden in the brush, the rotor can stop, the turbo clutch slips, allowing the operator to lift the head and move away from the obstruction, whereupon the rotor rapidly returns to working speed. When fitted to the Fendt 930 or 936 tractors, this gives similar performance to the crawler carriers.

The RT crawlers have been updated with Tier 3 engines and the RT130 is replaced by an all new RT200. The RT400 has had further

improvements with heavier front linkage and easier servicing.

The new H600 Bio-harvester can cut, chip and load biomass in one operation. This machine is ideal for SRC and habitat management.

Ahwi UK Ltd will have an H600 on their stand at the APF.

Ahwi (UK) Ltd 01344 873499
www.ahwiuk.co.uk

FAE have recently launched three new models of front attachments for their hydraulic range. The new front attachments PML HY, PMM HY and PML EX can be coupled to excavators from 1.5 to 7.5 tons.

The smallest of the three is the PML HY (in sizes 50, 70, 90), for excavators from 1.5 to 3.5 tons and can work material of up to 20mm in diameter. For excavators from 3.5 to 5.5 tons the PMM HY is available (in sizes 100, 125, 150), with a working diameter of up to 40 mm. The PML EX (in sizes 100, 125, 150), for excavators from 5.5 to 7.5 tons, will work material up to 50 mm.

The three front attachments are supplied with swinging hammers, in various numbers depending on the width of each model. However, they can also be equipped on demand with Y-shaped knives, suitable for cutting grass. For the PML HY and the PMM HY an oscillating attachment is also envisaged.

All models are driven by hydraulic motors with belt drive. They are equipped with various piston displacements depending on the type and width of the machine. Their weight varies from 150 to 350kg making them ideal for use in the environmental maintenance sector for clearing bushes, brambles, branches and tree trunks along river and canal banks, slopes and



Seppi's Star FC, capable of mulching, stumpgrinding and stone crushing.

FAE also offer a two-year warranty. FAE 0039 0463 840080

www.fae-group.com

Seppi, distributed in the UK by Lamberhurst Engineering, offer a range of 15 models, within which there are more than 50 machines.

Machines are available from 35 to 600hp. They are ideal for the fast removal of thick undergrowth and have been specifically designed for continuous use in cutting and mulching bushes and trees between 5cm and 50cm in diameter.

Seppi have also just added the Star FC to their range. This combines mulching, stumpgrinding and stone crushing into a single head. Designed for excavators from 15 to 35 tonnes and to take up to 300hp, it will grind stumps up to 40cm (16"), crush stones up to 15cm (6"), destroy roots and till the soil to a depth of 30cm (12"), mulch vegetation up to 40cm (16") and resurface stone tracks or roads. Three widths are available, 60cm (24") 75cm (30") and 100cm (39").

Lamberhurst 01892 890364

www.lameng.com

Over the past six years Riko UK have mainly supplied the smaller Ventura mulching flails for use with their Alpine range of tractors.

all Ventura models, which come in 11 ranges with a total of 56 models. They can be fitted on tractors, excavators and skid-steers.

The smallest in the range has a 130cm working width with swinging hammers, a weight of 658kg and a price tag starting at £7258 + VAT for the pto drive. The largest has fixed hammers that are reversible and a working width of 250cm. It weighs a massive 3600kg and is priced at £39,300 + VAT.

Managing director Stephen Cabrol points out that although the 130cm model requires only 40hp at the pto, this is only sufficient for scrub up to 50mm or so. To use it to its maximum capacity of 20-30cm 130hp is needed.

The power requirements for the largest 250cm width model range from 120-200hp at the pto and the price includes double drive to both ends of the main rotor, a hydraulic door and tree pushing bars.

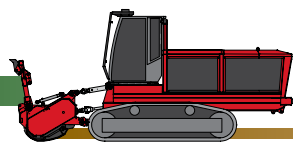
Riko UK 01420 487300

www.alpinetractors.com

Ryetec supply two distinct ranges of forestry mulchers. The lighter duty range is available with either swinging hammer or fixed tooth rotors with working widths of 1.3 to 2.2m. They are suitable for a



(Left) The Bugnot BFL head from Ryetec fitted on a reverse drive Valtra. (Centre) The new PML EX mulcher attachment from FAE. (Right) Ideal for lower hp tractors, the M500 from Ahwi.



range of applications from estate work for ride clearance and maintenance to contractors' operations and are capable of clearing material up to 200mm (8") in diameter. This range of machines can be mounted on tractors from 50hp upwards or hydraulically driven on 360-degree diggers or skid-steers.

Designed for heavy-duty use by professional contractors, the Bugnot range of forestry mulchers are suited to tractors from 100hp upwards and include a number of models with fixed tooth rotors for power units up to 400hp. These machines feature a hydraulically controlled head angling system, which allows the operator to control how aggressively the head is working and to match the head and power unit exactly to the conditions, from light or thick brush to heavy stumps.

Three different designs of teeth allow the contractor to choose the ideal setup for the type of work he has to undertake and there is also a model of head which can operate both on wood and stone, which can be used for track maintenance.

Ryeteq 01944 768232

www.ryeteq.co.uk

Plaisance Equipements' forestry mulchers are all equipped with fixed hammers with carbide spikes that have a significantly longer service life than a treated steel tool. Replacement is quick and easy. The carbide design for heavy-duty mulching conditions allows 20% work efficiency increase on stumps.

The BF401 range is designed for 50 to 140hp tractors with single or dual mechanic transmission (width from 1 to 2.2m). With single or dual transmissions and high pressure pistons motors, the BFH401 is a hydraulically driven head suitable for excavators from 13 to 25 tonnes and skidders.

Next up is the BF501 range, designed for tractors from 90 to 180hp. This model is able to mulch small brushwood as well as stand-



(Left) PrimeTech's new low ground pressure tracked prime mover, the PT-300. (Right) The 480 from Tigercat is a 500hp track-driven mulcher carrier.

ing trees or stumps. With a width of 1.6 to 2.2m, features include a high power gearbox (280hp), oversized dual transmission shafts (210hp) and 2 x 5 standard belts.

Heavy-duty heads for high power tractors (200 to 400hp) can be found in the BF600 and BF700 ranges. With a width of 1.8 to 2.5m, these heads can also be fitted to self-propelled machines (up to 550hp).

Plaisance also offer soil preparation mulching heads to work on stumps to depths of 10 to 50cm.

Plaisance 0033 608 316810

www.plaisance-equipement.eu

PrimeTech's new tracked prime mover, the PT-300, has an exceptionally low ground pressure of 3.10psi. With its 275hp engine, the PT-300 completes the PrimeTech range, placing itself between the more powerful 415hp PT-400 and the smallest model of the series, the 180hp PT-200.

Power comes from a John Deere 6.8-litre 6068HF turbocharged and aftercooled engine with 6 cylinders, producing 275hp and Tier 3 compliant. Sauer Danfoss hydraulic pumps and motors deliver high tractive force for ease of manoeuvrability and produce high torque for the attachments available.

The PT-300 can work well on difficult terrain, due to its oscillat-

ing undercarriage which adapts to uneven surfaces. The track can be fitted with two types of shoes in two different widths: 26" (STD-version) and 32" (LGP-version).

For the PT-300 there are two attachments available. The FAE 200U mulching head is ideal for all land clearing and mulching applications. Depending on the terrain the head can be equipped with normal C-type teeth, with sharp bladed Viper teeth, or with STCL rock teeth for use in rocky areas.

The FAE 200S subsoiler head is suitable for jobs that demand a working depth of up to 18 inches (milling stumps and roots in road construction, land conversion, pipelines etc). The spacious cab offers excellent visibility and incorporates features such as a heated pneumatic suspension seat, air conditioning, reversing camera and radio/CD/MP3 player. At 78dB the ROPS/FOPS cab provides the operator with a quiet, low-vibration and safe working environment.

PrimeTech 0039 0463 8400000

www.prime-tech.com

The 480 from Tigercat is a 370kW (500hp) track-driven mulcher carrier suitable for rough terrain, sensitive site applications, large-scale land clearance and right of way projects. Field-proven design elements of the new 480 are taken from Tigercat's

700 series wheeled feller bunchers and 800 series track carriers.

With a 373 kW (500 hp) Cummins QSX15 Tier 3 engine, the 480 has 328kW (440hp) available to the mulching attachment. The machine is compact and manoeuvrable with a narrow overall width and a light footprint for soft soil conditions.

A closed loop track drive system propels the carrier and a dedicated pump powers the attachment. The 480 uses heavy-duty track frames and a robust mounting system for the oscillating tracks. The high capacity cooling system uses a variable pitch fan with an automatic reversing cycle.

The machine incorporates high-lift boom geometry for improved performance on uneven terrain. The counter-rotate function allows the 480 to pivot about its centre axis at the touch of a button for on-the-spot turns at the end of a row. All functions including the joystick steering are electronically controlled allowing operator customisation.

Tigercat has striven to provide the best possible access to daily service points and major components with large swing-out engine compartment doors and a tilting cab.

Tigercat also offers rubber tyre mulchers in the 300 and 400hp class, the M726E and the M760 models. www.tigercat.com



(Left) Ventura mulching flails from Riko UK can be fitted to tractors, excavators and skid-steers. (Right) The BF501 from Plaisance Equipements is designed for tractors from 90 to 150hp.