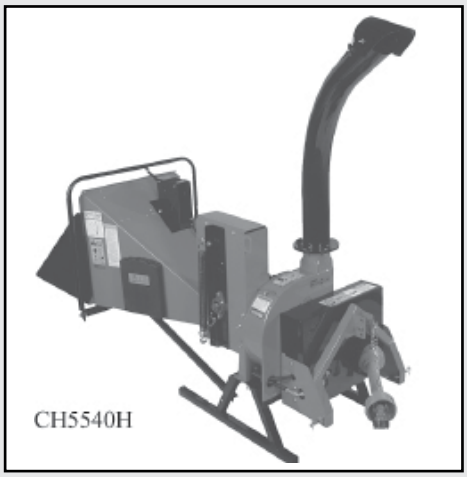
ECHO Bear Cat PTO Chippers & Chipper/Shredder/Blowers



The compact design of ECHO Bear Cat PTO-powered chippers is perfect for getting into those hard-to-reach areas on your farm. There are 7 models available to choose from.

4.5-In. Chipping Capacity

ECHO Bear Cat PTO-powered chipper, with 4.5-in. capacity, features a double-banded belt drive, 2 reversible heat-treated steel chipper blades, and a cantilevered disc. Fits a Category I 3-pt. and a 540 rpm input.

5-In. Chipping Capacity

The 5-in. capacity ECHO Bear Cat PTO-powered chipper has hydraulic feed, an integrated discharge blower, and a 6-in. dia. rotating discharge chute. Fits a Category I 3-pt. and a 540 rpm input.

5-In. Capacity Chipper/Shredder/Blower

The ECHO Bear Cat combination chipper/shredder/blower handles material up to 5 in. dia. and has 5 different shredder settings, including a screen-less shredder setting. Uses 36 serrated shredding knives.

To locate a dealer near you, contact:
800.247.7335
www.bearcatproducts.com
Reader Inquiry No. 175

ECHO BEAR CAT

Whole Tree Creates Unique Interiors

Ronald Gundersen and his company, Whole Trees Architecture, uses whole trees for everything from structural components to interior decorating, including stairs, railings and exposed columns.

"We work on homes, as well as commercial buildings where whole trees compete with concrete and steel," explains Amelia Swan, co-owner. "As steel and concrete prices go up and the ability to import materials becomes more challenging, we think people will see that whole tree building makes sense economically."

The USDA Forest Products Research Laboratory has shown that whole trees are 50 percent stronger in axial loading and bending than milled lumber of comparable size. Milling, they found, removes the strongest and outermost layers of the tree that are pre-tensioned to resist wind shear.

The company is headquartered in a steep-sided, tree-filled valley in southwestern Wisconsin. They do their planning and consulting from living quarters and office areas that were built with whole trees. They also prepare and harvest trees from the 140-acre woodlot for use in clients' buildings. They have a computerized inventory of more than 1,000 trees that are ready for harvest.

"The software stores length, base and top diameter, potential as single or double pieces, natural curves or arches as well as the GPS location of the tree," says Swan. "We can pull up photos of the trees as well."

Once a client has approved a design, trees will be selected from the inventory. Selected trees will already have been girdled, bark peeled and allowed to dry in place in the woods for 6 months or more. In that time, a tree will lose up to 50 percent of its weight in water, making it easier and less expensive to move. If necessary, trees may also be dried in a simple solar kiln.

"The slower the tree dries out, the less checking or longitudinal cracking that occurs," explains Swan. "It has no affect on the structural integrity or strength of the tree, only on its appearance."

Even green trees can be used in building, adds Swan. As they dry in place, they will shrink in diameter but not to any noticeable degree in length.

Whole tree construction costs around $125/sq. ft. fall at the low end of custom construction, says Swan. By comparison, a conventional stick built home would be less, but a post and beam home starts at $145/sq. ft. and moves up to $180 or more.

Swan explains that the company operates at multiple levels depending on a client's needs. They can develop plans, provide trees, act as general contractors, or do all these. Clients may want local trees on site to be used, and Gundersen's crew will harvest and prep them.

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