

# Heavy-Duty Grinders Made For Tough Stumps



**Grinders feature powerful hydraulic rotation and durable steel frames and blades, enabling them to handle the largest stumps with ease.**

Dipperfox, an Estonia-based company, developed a series of stump grinders designed to make short work of the typically labor-intensive task of removing tree stumps.

“Our tools are designed for speed, precision and efficiency,” says Dipperfox Sales Manager, Vallo Visnapuu. “With their ability to drill and crush stumps directly into the ground, it eliminates the need for uprooting, transporting and cleaning up bulky debris.”

The Dipperfox stump grinder’s design streamlines stump drilling, making land

clearing simple. Four model sizes feature cutting diameters from 15 to 33 1/2 in. and drilling depths from 23 to over 35 in. The units mount easily to mini and large excavators, skid steers, backhoes, loaders and utility track loaders.

Compared with high-speed grinders, Dipperfox models don’t include fast-moving blades to propel debris, ensuring a smaller safety zone is required when working in close quarters. Since debris remains at the drilling position, cleanup is minimal.

The range of grinders features powerful hydraulic rotation and durable steel frames and blades, enabling them to handle the largest stumps with ease.

A key component of their impressive performance is a patented gear-changing mechanism that converts revolving speed into torque. They’re also the only attachments in their class with bolt-on consumables such as cutting blades and central screws.

The four Dipperfox stump grinder models are available throughout North America. Interested customers should contact the nearest dealer for pricing and availability.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dipperfox, Abra Equipment Supply, 16150 Lee Rd., Suite 210, Fort Myers, Fla. 33912 (ph 844-692-5800; [www.abraequipmentsupply.com](http://www.abraequipmentsupply.com)).



**Kelp is loaded onto a conveyor that carries it to an IBC tote for fermentation.**

## Fermented Kelp Boosts Crops

Seaweed has long been utilized as a beneficial crop input; however, applying it has been a challenge. In the mid-1960s, two New Zealand teachers developed a solution by fermenting seaweed to extract key plant growth compounds, including natural hormones, bioactives and micronutrients. AgriSea New Zealand, the company they formed, was limited in production as they relied on wild seaweed washed ashore.

That changed about five years ago with a visit by Bren Smith, a seaweed farmer from Connecticut. He’s also co-founder of GreenWave, a non-profit promoting seaweed production and use.

“I was helping set up kelp farms in New Zealand and learned about their products,” says Smith. “Their proprietary fermentation process provides real value to farmers.”

AgriSea markets products for animal and crop nutrition, horticulture, viticulture and market gardens. Products are also marketed for turf and home gardens. They include soil and foliar-applied products, as well as livestock ration supplements. The company describes their products as “a nutrient feast, a smorgasbord for soil biology, plant and animal health.” They note that their native seaweed is “packed full of minerals, vitamins, growth promotants, trace elements and amino acids.”

Smith set up a cooperative agreement with AgriSea. GreenWave helps train New Zealand ocean farmers to grow kelp. In return, GreenWave can use the fermentation process in their production facility in the U.S. to turn 250,000 lbs. of New England kelp into AgriSea’s natural biostimulant.

“AgriSea makes the soil biome more efficient, reducing the need for fertilizer, increasing root length and creating a more complex biome,” says Smith. “It increases tolerance to sun and high temperatures and reduces the need for irrigation.”

AgriSea U.S. is now offering soil and foliar-applied products. They’re available in 5-gal. buckets (\$125), 50-gal. barrels (\$844) and 275-gal. totes (\$2,656) for farmers to test on their crops. Smith and GreenWave’s goal is to build markets for ocean-farmed kelp.

“We’re still in the early stages of product introduction,” says Smith. “We’re building a body of evidence by working with farmers to prove out its effectiveness.”

Smith encourages FARM SHOW readers interested in trying the product to contact AgriSea.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AgriSea ([info@agri-sea.com](mailto:info@agri-sea.com); [www.agri-sea.com](http://www.agri-sea.com)) or GreenWave ([www.greenwave.org](http://www.greenwave.org)).



**“We use an automatic racking system that’s very durable and has been commonly used for decades,” says Peterson.**

## World’s Largest Fodder Mill Simplifies Production

The new fully automated, sprouted grain feed mill at Forever Feed Technologies’ (FFT) Innovation Center may be the solution needed by dairy operations in arid regions. The world’s largest such feed mill, it produces a uniform, consistent and fresh feed that improves health, reduces feed intake and increases milk production. It does so with a fraction of the water needed in outdoor production. And it’s simpler and more dependable than other fodder systems. One of the keys is the use of long-proven warehouse automation.

“Our goal was to design a system that was so simple and reliable that it wouldn’t break down,” says Brent Peterson, Forever Feed Technologies. “We dramatically reduced the number of parts needed in an automated fodder system. We use an automatic racking system that’s very durable and has been commonly used for decades.”

The FFT system lays seed on a 4 by 4-ft. pallet that the racking system carries to an open spot in the warehouse. There it’s stored, and the seed is watered. In six days, the seed sprouts and begins to green up as photosynthesis activates in each sprout.

“It’s a very efficient and limited energy system,” says Peterson. “We have no grow lights or belts to move the seed as it sprouts. The ambient light from operating lights in the building is all that the sprouts need.”

At the end of six days, the racking system picks up the pallet and dumps the fodder onto a conveyor belt that carries it to a shredder. The shredded fodder is carried to the feedlot, where it’s measured into the TMR mixer.

Back in the fodder feed mill, the pallet handling system cleans the pallet and reloads it with seed before returning it to its place in the rack.

“The system knows where each of the thousands of pallets are,” says Peterson.

He credits FFT’s design partner, JR Automation, for the knowledge needed to put the system together.

“We understand the science behind growing the fodder suitable for dairy animals,” he says. “They provided the automation expertise needed.”

The Innovation Center is a 10,000-sq. ft. building that can produce about 30,000 lbs. of fodder per day. Approximately one-third



**Once in full production, each FFT feed mill will produce 100,000 lbs. of fodder per day.**

the size of a full-scale unit, it’s located at FFT CEO Jack de Jong’s River Ranch Farms, LLC, in Hanford, Calif. Research with the fodder and the dairy herd is evaluating recommended inclusion rates in a ration, as well as evaluating the fodder’s impact on the herd.

“It’s still early yet, but we’re seeing very positive results and capturing the data,” says Peterson. “We’ve tried different percentages of fodder as high as 20%. We expect the sweet spot will be between 10 and 20%.”

Peterson expects the prototype to be duplicated many times over as it proves itself out. The owners of FFT are all dairymen eager to utilize the system.

“Our investor team members all own dairies or other ag facilities,” says Peterson. “Their goal is to develop the technology so they can implement it in their operations.”

Once in full production, each FFT feed mill will produce 100,000 lbs. of fodder per day. That’s enough to provide up to 20% of the feed required by a 2,500 herd of milking cows.

“We’re in the fine-tuning stage with the Innovation Center before building the first full-scale production unit,” says Peterson. “It’s functional now, but there are still little odds and ends that need to be addressed. When you’re feeding dairy cows, you can’t have any downtime. The system has to be totally functional.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Forever Feed Technologies, 6127 Jackson Ave., Hanford, Calif. 93230 ([info@foreverfeed.com](mailto:info@foreverfeed.com); [www.foreverfeed.com](http://www.foreverfeed.com)).

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