Finnish machine makes 3-in. dia. logs directly from the bog.

PROCESSES MORE THAN ENOUGH FUEL IN ONE DAY TO HEAT A HOME ALL WINTER LONG

Machine Makes Logs Out Of Peat Sod

A tractor-mounted machine manufactured in Finland can extrude enough peat sod logs in one day, directly from the bog, to heat the average home for a winter and a half.

FARM SHOW learned that one of the machines is in use in Canada and tracked down Richard Thomas, of Kearney, Ont. Thomas has been making peat sod logs with one of the Finnish-made machines for about a year.

"The machine, which mounts on the 3-pt. hitch of a tractor at least 72 hp. in size, will process 12 to 15 cubic meters of peat an hour," Thomas told FARM SHOW. "The sod logs are extruded — there is a disk which throws the peat into a cylinder where an auger extrudes it.

"What comes out are logs about 3 in. in diameter. They break off of their own weight to lengths of 6 to 10 in. They then have to lay on the ground for about 2 weeks to dry, depending on the weather, and then can be picked up and burned. Also, they have industrial use in the manufacturing of coke.

"In only one day, you can process enough fuel for a home to last for a winter and a half," says Thomas. "I heated my home all last winter with peat logs."

He went to Finland to see the machine, then imported one at a cost of about $6,000. He is not selling them himself, nor does he know of anyone in Canada or the U.S. who is. He purchased his from the Reni Company, of Kajaani, Finland.

The machine won't work with raw, wet peat, according to Thomas. "You have to ditch the bog and leave it to drain for a year or so. Then you have a lot of fuel," he says.

Peat has its own binder and sticks together on its own when it has some moisture in it, explains Thomas. He is draining his first bog now, but has used the machine very successfully on peat dug out of a bog with a drag line or back hoe, then spread on a field to drain. He then drives over the peat with the tractor and makes the extruded sod logs.

According to Dr. Bill Radforth, a specialist in the study and use of peat at the University of Brunswick at Ferderikton, N.B., the material has less density than wood. "It can provide a greater number of btu's per unit of weight, and is easier to use," he says.

Thomas told FARM SHOW that peat in a bog first needs to be tested for ash content before converting it to sod to burn. "Try to get peat that has no more than 4 or 5% ash. It provides a fuel that will give better heat value per pound than maple wood," he points out.

He adds that peat sod can rate 9,000 btu's per lb., "a little better than most wood, and it ranges as high as 12,000 btu's per lb. Every log is different."

The small logs he makes are light and bulky. "A 100-lb. feed sack full will weigh 20 to 25 lbs.," he says.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Thomas, Box 58, Kearney, Ontario, Can. POA IMO (ph 705 636-7842).

LETS YOU SAW LUMBER, FENCE POSTS

Kit Converts Chainsaw Into Portable Sawmill

Now you can turn your chain saw into a portable sawmill, thanks to the new Multi-Mill from Timber-Tec Co., of Cambridge, Wis.

The unit used in conjunction with your chain saw lets you make lumber out of logs up to 16 ft. long. It can also be used to cut fence posts or firewood.

"Two men can safely cut up to 1,000 board feet of lumber per day or one man can cut lesser amounts by himself," according to inventor-manufacturer, William Spitz.

"Essentially, the Multi-Mill is a single rail upon which a carriage-mounted saw with four wheels rides," explains Spitz. The rail is 10 ft. long and acts as a track for the carriage to move along. An optional extension rail increases length to 16 ft. for bigger logs.

Any brand of saw can be used, but it must be capable of powering a 24-in. bar. A bar and chain comes with the sawmill. The bar is bolted onto the movable carriage.

The width of cut is adjustable. It's changed by sliding the tube-within-a-tube chainsaw mounting to the desired width. To operate as a sawmill, the log is held against the main frame with adjustable dogs. This keeps the log stationary.

Chainsaw rolls down 16 ft. rack to cut logs into boards.

Spitz says his sawmill can be bolted onto a truck, mounted on a trailer which he sells as an option, or it can be set up in a permanent location. It's built from 3/8 in. thick 4 by 4 in. angle iron.

The Multi-Mill breaks down for shipping and can be assembled with just a few bolts. Price is $795. Extensions and trailer kit are extra.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William Spitz, Timber-Tec Co., 1756 Hwy. 12, Drawer B, Cambridge, Wis. 53523 (ph 608 423-4715).

PIECES TO BE WELDED CAN BE HELD IN ANY POSITION

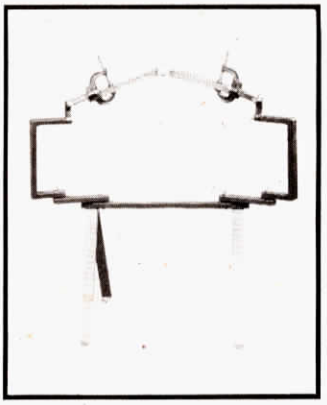
"Welder's Helper" Is Extra Set Of Hands

Those extra hands you always need to help hold materials for welding are built into the new Welder's Helper from Future Tech, Mankato, Minn.

The Welder's Helper is a multiple-armed, articulated holding device capable of holding up to 200 lbs. It consists of two arms equipped with adjustible C-clamps which securely hold the pieces to be welded, letting you concentrate on welding.

The arms are mounted on adjustable joints so you can turn, rotate, raise and lower them in any direction to get the exact holding position you need.

The basic frame is 46 in. wide, 36 in. high and 48 in. long. It is sturdily made of 1 in. by 2 in. tubular steel. Both arms and the four legs are made from 1 in. by 1 in. tubular steel. The legs feature leveling bolts for solid footing. They can be fastened to the floor for extra stability. Cost is $285. Dealers and distributor inquiries welcome.



Jig shown holding two pieces for precision welding.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Future Tech, Inc., 880 Madison Avenue, Mankato, Minn. 56001 (ph 507 388-6610).