Obituary

Dear Sir

In the review of pruning it was mentioned that mechanized pruning equipment was not being used in New Zealand. I was recently in the Misiones Province of Argentina where I saw electric powered pruners being used. Both large companies and farm foresters are using them, despite the relatively low wages and much higher equipment costs. The pruners being used are made by Electrocoup, a French company, and have been modified from vine pruners by having larger jaws. The battery pack (2.3 kg) allows them to be used for a whole day without recharging. In Argentina they are used mainly in loblolly pine stands but are also used with other species as well. Studies made in both Argentina and Australia show that new workers have a similar productivity to the best workers using standard forestry loppers (McWilliam, 2004). Results also suggest that using Electrocoup pruners workers become more productive over the day and there may be safety advantages with high pruning. I would be interested to know if similar pruners have been tried in New Zealand.

Reference:


Don Mead

Letters

Electric pruner increases productivity

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