

The Hayter 26 inch self propelled Motor Scythe

Origin

A demonstration of this machine was given by the manufacturers at Alice Holt on the 31st of October, 1956.

Description

The Hayter 26" self propelled model is very similar in general layout to the standard hand propelled model. The essential difference is that the two rear wheels are replaced by a roller running the full width of the machine. This roller is driven through a 3 speed gearbox. An independent drive is taken from the engine through a centrifugal clutch then by twisted belt to the rotary cutter. Some details are:-

Engine - Villiers 256 c.c. four stroke  
Gearbox - 3 speed Albion  
Width of path cut - 26 inches (4 blades on cutter)  
Height of cut - Adjustable  
Weight - 4 cwt.  
Price - £108

Observations

1. The performance of the machine on long grass, bracken and bramble was very satisfactory where the ground underneath the vegetation was reasonably smooth. A fast walking speed could be maintained. Any uneven surfaces such as could reasonably be expected on a forest floor were, however, too much for the machine. Quite small bumps of 5 inches or more caused the rotary cutter to stall and the driving roller to slip. Shallow drains caused failure for the same reason. Stumps were a definite hazard which the machine would not tackle. The self propelled machine seems to be far more vulnerable to any obstruction than the hand propelled type. In the case of the latter the operator feels the obstruction and can immediately withdraw the machine whereas the self propelled machine cannot be stopped until it has run itself hard into the obstruction with consequent damage to itself.
2. The machine is propelled by the 9 inch diameter rear roller. This small diameter coupled with the fact that the roller is smooth causes it to slip very easily on soft wet ground or when the machine is

(1) Defector<sup>12</sup>

(ii) L. B. C. 12/6

(iii) L. Parky 12/6

(iv) L. Stock 12/6

(v) L. M. C. 12/6

(vi) L. Bringer 12/6

(vii) L. D. Shorrock 12/6



trying to climb over even a small obstruction. When in any of these difficulties the weight (4 cwts.) is too great to be easily man-handled.

Mechanical  
Reliability

No comment can be made on the results of this brief demonstration.

Conclusions

The observations made during this demonstration indicate that the Hayter 26" self propelled motor scythe is capable of giving very satisfactory results and a high rate of output when dealing with rough vegetation on ground which is reasonably level and free from obstructions. It will not, however, travel over the surfaces likely to be met on a forest floor.

R. G. SHAW

Machinery Research Officer  
November, 1956

*Gift*