

Timberwolf Shredder/Chipper 13/75G

A Wolf with REAL Teeth

I am fed up with the shredders and chippers on the market which promise more than they can deliver. Shredding should be a task that clears up your garden/ tree waste problems and saves a lot of time, but lets face it, that is not the usual experience. On some shredders I have literally spent hours unblocking inlets and outlets because the material being shredded was a little "difficult". On others I have had to spend more time preparing the material to be shredded than I would regard as

justified for the end result. On yet others the design is such that the outlet feeds directly onto the ground so that it blocks if you are not careful to clear or move the machine regularly. And so on, the problems are as numerous as the number of machines on the market.

Enter the Timberwolf 13/75G. It seems to me as if the designer of this machine has had similar experiences to mine and wants to spare us time and hassle. To put it simply, it's the most efficient shredder/ chipper of this size and price range I have ever used.

Using it was simple, it is as safe as using a shredder/chipper can be and the end result was a usable, not to mention saleable, pile of chips and shredded debris. And all in about a quarter of the time I was expecting.

OK, it is not the sort of machine that will fit easily into the back of your hatchback, nor is it likely to be on sale in your local Gardening Superstore. Most likely it will be available in a nearby Tool Hire Centre where you will be able to fit it into a small van or larger estate as you take it away for a weekend's garden clearing. It is light enough to be lifted by two average strength people when it is separated into its two component parts and is easily movable on its integral wheels by one person.

To move on to some of the reasons why the Timberwolf is a good machine. To start, it is a strong welded steel construction. The feed funnel, in my estimation, could support half a dozen people standing on it, and when it is bolted to the wheeled base it

becomes a levered handle for moving the chipper around. The funnel is a good arm and a half deep and the opening about 1.8m from the ground, so a user would have to be going some to expose his/her hands to the whirling blade.

The 13 horsepower Honda four stroke motor started easily and ran smoothly, the only controls needed being fuel on/off, ignition on/off choke and starter pull rope. Behind the motor, in a heavy steel casing, runs the flywheel with the single cutting



blade attached. At the top of the casing is a strongly made and adjustable discharge spout that will discharge the chips and shredded material into a trailer or onto a heap nearer or further away from the machine.

The motor is connected to the big flywheel by a belt system, which acts as a safety factor should there be shocks and blockages.

The single blade is easily replaceable by removing two substantial bolts. Apparently, a faster rate of cut could have been available by having two blades on the flywheel, but this was considered to be a bit scary for the target hire shop users.

Protecting the user from himself, the flywheel casing is micro switch protected, so that the motor will not run when the flywheel and blade are exposed. I had occasion to test this and it works. While chipping some apple branches the motor suddenly

stopped. After the usual checks I realised that the flywheel casing was loose, and simply tightening it back safely meant that it was all systems go again.

The chipper I was sent for review had solid wheels about 250mm in diameter, but I am told that pneumatic tyres are also available. Since I was having to move the Timberwolf over muddy ground I would have preferred the bigger tyres. The fact remains that despite being easy to move the Timberwolf weighs 166.5 Kgs. I am used to

chippers advertising what they will do, and then failing to do it adequately. This is not a fault in the Timberwolf. Having exceeded the specified maximum cut on a few occasions I asked a few other people to have a go, and they were quite simply amazed. A school groundsman with experience of many other chippers could not believe the rate of cutting. He got through the pile of branch cuttings he wanted to chip in about a third of the time he had allotted. On wet branches the machine barely slowed as it was fed, and on dry branches, it just

needed a little more time to chew. As long as the user maintained a steady feed pace the chips just kept on coming. The Timberwolf will chip wet timber in excess of 75mm as a matter of course, building in the kind of safety and performance margin that the hire industry needs. I have never known a hirer that did not knowingly or unknowingly exceed the limits of the hired machine.

What the Timberwolf has in effect done is to bring industrial strength chipping and shredding into the realms of the serious gardener, landscaper or smallholder. This machine is strongly built and simple to operate, safe to use and easy to move. It has a minimum of moveable parts, but the parts that do move do a wonderfully efficient job. It should be a price competitive, reliable machine in every Hire Centre's portfolio.

- Independent Review by Peter Brett