

# MOBILE SAWMILLING WITH BIOWOODLAND'S WOODMIZER

## Optimum use of saw and timber

A mobile saw is an ideal way for farmers and woodland owners to convert timber on-site for their own use or to add value to their timber for sale.

- Small parcels of timber can be difficult to market.
- Trees on sites where extraction is difficult are often left to rot.
- Good quality timber is often sold for firewood or pulpwood.
- A few logs can be very expensive to transport to a sawmill,

**A mobile saw is often the cost effective answer.**

Biowood's saw is completely self-contained with its own 40hp diesel engine towed behind a 4x4. It can operate in woodland and on farm fields. The saw can convert trees up to 38" (1m) in diameter, 20ft (6.1m) in length and up to a maximum weight of about two tonnes.

The saw is very productive since loading, turning and clamping operations are all hydraulically controlled. An infinite range of sawn timber products can be produced:

- Boards - wavy or square edged
- Construction materials such as posts, joists, beams, cladding
- Farm products such as fencing posts, rails and gateposts.

## Preparing the site

Plan an efficient milling operation while the trees are still standing.

- Try to avoid unnecessary double handling in all operations from felling to stacking the sawn planks.
- Make sure you have a felling license and also check about Local Authority tree preservation orders.

There are important consequences to cross-cutting:

- Cross cut the logs to between 2 and 6 meters.
- With small diameter logs, 8ft (2.5m) is often a good length.
- Short lengths require as much handling as longer logs so the longer the better.
- Select the straight parts of bent logs, cross-cutting on the bends.
- Cutting all logs to the same length can reduce labour costs later.

The sawmill worksite should be:

- Reasonably dry and level, preferably on hard standing.

- Large enough to set up the saw, allow timber loading and also have room to stack sawn planks and the “waste” slabwood.

### **Getting the best out of your timber**

Keep logs clean

- Dirty logs will rapidly blunt saw blades.
- Check thoroughly for wire, nails and stones. Blunted blades will be charged at £10
- Broken blades will be charged at £20

The logs should be stacked on bearers to reduce timber degrade and ease handling. The stack should be positioned so that the logs can easily be rolled onto the saw.

Continuous sawmilling will produce more value for your money:

- Keep fresh timber in front of the saw and remove sawn planks and waste out of the way as quickly as possible.
- Consider employing extra help for the day.
- Provide a cutting list of the sizes and quantities you require.
- Pre-plan the lay-out of the storage area and make sure that you cut plenty of 25-x-19mm sticks to put between the planks. The cut timber will need to be stacked on very level ground to avoid bending during drying.

### **Cost and productivity**

The mobile sawmill is charged at £350 per day. This includes operator, fuel and transport for an 8 hour day.

Productivity will vary up to 200 ft<sup>3</sup> (5.7m<sup>3</sup>) per day depending on size and quality of the timber cut and the efficiency of log loading and timber handling. In most cases you will at least cover the cost of milling the timber. It can be profitable to saw non-standard sized or big timber sections such as beams. If you have a market for hardwood, then the value added by air-drying sawn planks is worthwhile.

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