

BANDIT 21XP CHIPPER

When the call from AA came through the *Training for Trees* office to see if we would be interested in test driving the new Bandit 21XP Chipper, there was no hesitation in accepting.



You just can't help being excited when you first set eyes on this huge green machine. Some of you might know it as the 1990XP, but recent changes have also given it a new name. It's called the 21XP Intimidator™ for good reason. Its stance and posture on the twin axles is just awesome.

Other than its size, the first thing you notice is the design of the chip discharge chute, obviously massive as well. All the traditional controls are there, along with a tidy network of arterial hydraulic lines and operating systems all clearly marked with clear instruction regarding operations.

Our machine had the forestry discharge chute which is now standard on the 21XP. It fixes in a forward position and the chip deflector at the end of the chute angles up, down and left to right hydraulically so that you can fill every corner of the truck. It's

much wider than traditional chutes and does not have the restrictive transition where the chips come out of the drum housing.

During our test the Bandit 21XP threw chips up on to the mulch pile, a distance of well over 20m and filled one of the chip trucks with absolute ease. It didn't make much mess in between – less raking up is always good. The throwing power with this discharge chute is amazing!

We decided to set it up in the wood yard as we needed to get rid of some of Queensland's most awkward, gnarly, dead native timbers and we had an excavator available to feed it.

When we turned the key, the CAT C6.6 250hp turbo diesel engine growled at us while it idled up to temperature. The moment had arrived, the feed rollers were engaged and we stood clear and signaled the excavator to start feeding.

This machine has giant 32-inch wide horizontal feed rollers and will accept timber up to and over 21 inches in diameter. The infeed throat is built bigger and wider than required to take apart whole trees with minimal trimming.

The driver of the excavator wanted to test that theory to jamming point, so he loaded to the maximum. The big Bandit really did take huge timber and didn't look like jamming up. We reversed an oversize

30-inch diameter log out with ease due to the lift and crush slide box feature.

We also liked the hydraulic operations for everything, including Bandit's newly designed, much more powerful infeed winch. Easy to operate controls, clearly marked with instructions, made it even easier.

Large emergency stop buttons are situated on both sides of the feed table near the feed roller control bar and, as always, Bandit's "Last Chance" cables hang down in the middle of the feed chute. I loved the wooden push stick for feeding small material that has always been supplied standard on Bandit machines.

The Intimidator™, like all Bandit machines, comes standard with their patented rope shear device. This device has extra knives set over the drum that will help cut a winch rope, climber's rope or work rope, if it is accidentally fed into the machine, to help prevent it from wrapping around the drum. Awesome safety feature – well done Bandit.

I was thoroughly disappointed when our test day was over and had to return the beast. I wonder now if I could just convince the minister of finance at *Training for Trees*.

For more information visit
www.banditchippers.com.au
or call 1800 681 733.