



Machine Operator
David Foytik

Log Handler
None

Time
12 min. 32 sec.

Cords Processed
1.5

Cords/Hour
7.2

Multitek 2040 xp2 ss

THE MULTITEK'S FLAGSHIP 2040 firewood processor came back this year after a very successful run in the 2007 Firewood Competition. The team was out to determine whether the significant changes they had made to the machine over the last two years would pay off in higher production. The unique grapple feed mechanism was still in place, and most of the machine would have been familiar to anyone who had seen it two years ago...except for that monstrous 60-inch diameter circular slasher saw in place of the hydraulic chain saw that had been there before. Sawyer Dave Foytik explained that this option reduces cutting time and yields higher production. The momentum of the blade carries it through the cut, so the engine does not slow down when the machine is cutting and splitting at the same time.

Slowing down was the last thing the 80-hp John Deere engine seemed to want to do, and pushing

the firewood bolts through the 8-way splitting wedge was no problem, as Dave sat back in the padded seat of his sound-isolated cab (air conditioning and stereo system are optional). He described the 2040, "This is a very safe machine. The saw goes away from the operator, so if it hits something like a

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spike or an insulator, the inserted tooth goes down the chute. The cab is very quiet and provides good visibility." Dave had clearly put in a number of hours on the machine, as he nudged the joysticks to control every process from the log

infed to the finished firewood moving up the 30-foot conveyor before it disappeared into the waiting semi truck trailer.

The grapple feed is notable

and merits a description. The red lobster-like claw grips the firewood log and feeds it into the slasher saw which lops it off to the desired length. According

to Dave, this arrangement works especially well for crooked logs. "You have to study that log as it's coming in. There are certain ways of turning the log to make it go through the splitter easier and get better firewood. With the grapple, I can get the log to turn by grabbing it, lifting, and then letting go."

If you are a home user just looking for a way to cut firewood for yourself, figure on using the 15,000-pound machine about half an hour per year! Finishing its cord and a half in just 12-1/2 minutes, this machine put out firewood at the rate of 7.2 cords per hour. On the other hand, if you have a good supply of raw material and a good market, this machine could easily keep a crew of a half dozen people or so working full-time. ■



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