

Environmental working group update

- NZIF position statement on biodiversity. Karen Shaw has agreed to pursue the drafting of an NZIF position statement on biodiversity and will endeavour to have a draft prepared by June. This issue has been given prominence recently by local bodies, some of whom are considering biodiversity issues in draft regional and district plans.
- Some 128 people attended the Greening the New Zealand Forest Industry seminar in Auckland in February which received wide press coverage and is reported on elsewhere in this

issue. Representatives of the NZIF and Commonwealth Forestry Association (NZ) met after the seminar and agreed that the Environment and Energy Committee of the NZ Forest Industries Council (NZFIC) was the obvious candidate to carry forward the outcomes of the Greening seminar. The Presidents of NZIF and the CFA (NZ) have subsequently written to NZFIC along these lines.

- The Environmental Working Group (EWG) and Wood Processing – EWG members have informally approached a number of the wood-processing asso-

ciations to learn about their activities in environmental matters and of their interest in working together on environmental issues. More recently the Greening seminar has raised issues that need to be dealt with by the wood-processing industry and NZFIC is being approached to follow up on the seminar. With this in mind the EWG is waiting to see NZFIC's response before pursuing any activities in this area.

Tim Thorpe
Convenor

NEW INFORMATION

Forestry establishment requires a fully integrated range of equipment

Forestry is not like farming. In forestry the people with the investment in the land are often not farmers but rather they are businessmen with an eye for an investment and more importantly with a keen understanding of costs and economic advantages flowing from efficient use of capital, resources and equipment.

Nobody understands this better than Keith MacAulay, Technical Manager of Professional Silviculture Services Ltd in Kawerau.

With 11 years' experience in silviculture Keith is adamant that forestry establishment equipment must be a fully integrated system that is sound, reliable and most importantly, is designed and manufactured to work together. He uses C-Dax equipment and the Palmerston North-based company is one of few manufacturers to produce a fully integrated range of equipment for forestry establishment.

The first item Keith uses is a Bulk Chemical Transfer tank. Whilst chemical transfer tanks are common enough in the industry the C-Dax tank, he says, certainly sets the standard and offers several options that many other tanks don't.

The three key factors to consider in a bulk chemical tank are mixing, storage and delivery. Efficient mixing can only be achieved with a built-in agitator and when the agitator pump is turned on it must

totally prevent any "settling out" from occurring.

"We mix our own cocktail of chemicals in order to avoid the more toxic chemicals and because of this we need good agitation. Most modern silviculturists would have a preferred chemical cocktail and they all need to be prevented from settling," Keith said.

by Trevor Kearney

"Lack of agitation has been and still is a major problem. You see it all the time. Contractors who don't have an agitator tank get a great result to begin with, but as they gradually use the tank up the concentration gets weaker and inconsistency is the result. No forestry owner today will stand for inconsistent spraying; they simply demand a good result."

Secondly comes the issue of storage. The C-Dax tank offers ample storage and one tank full will allow the planting crew to achieve good economic use of the available hours.

The third factor is delivery, and here is where good design really counts. It is crucial for the bulk chemical tank to remain in close proximity to the planting crew. This avoids long walks to refill the back pack. To fulfil this requirement the

C-Dax tank comes as a flat deck-mounted option or on a purpose-built trailer for towing behind a 4WD or ATV. Both options allow the tank to be kept as close as practical to the spraying crew.

The other important factor that must be considered is that of trailer design. When shifting large amounts of chemical it's important to have the trailer designed with a particular purpose in mind. C-Dax have many years' experience designing and building spray tanks and trailers and the knowledge they have gathered over the years ensures that the tank and trailer unit fit together both economically and safely.

Transporting chemical around forestry establishment areas is the first stage, but secondly comes the crucial step of delivering the spray via a knapsack directly to where it's needed.

Keith is adamant that the only way to go is an accumulator pump as opposed to a diaphragm pump.

"It's quite simple. An accumulator pump can maintain a higher pressure and store that pressure for longer. This means that the ideal pressure of 2.5 to 3 bar is maintained longer and so the dose application is much more accurate," he said.

"When your crew is planting thousands of trees a day even a slight variation in the accuracy can have a major eco-

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conomic impact.” Not only is Keith sold on the accuracy of the C-Dax tree release sprayers but he also believes that because the accumulator pump delivers more pressure for less pumping, spraying crews are fresher and happier at the end of a day’s spraying.

Whilst the accumulator pump plays a major role in the success of C-Dax tree release sprayers, other factors such as the electronically-controlled trigger dispenser and the fact that it switches easily from

metered dose to manual operation all contribute to C-Dax tree release sprayers being considerably more cost-effective than most alternatives.

Fire Extinguisher

The third piece of equipment that makes up the C-Dax forestry establishment package is the knapsack fire extinguisher. Whilst it is not always mandatory during the off-season, most forestry com-

panies have minimum requirements for the instant availability of water.

The C-Dax fire extinguisher meets these requirements and delivers an instant fire-fighting capability via its double-acting pump action system. Forestry establishment is certainly a growth industry and with the planting season almost here those contractors who opt for a specialised fully integrated system will certainly be well set up to deliver major benefits to themselves, the forest owner and employees alike.

Get more hectares per man per day



BULK CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS

- Built-in agitator pump eliminates settling out
- Premix to provide accurate chemical ratios
- Flatdeck or trailed options keep pace with your gang for maximum productivity

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