

**Not intended to be a complete Operator Manual. Available upon request.**

## How to Use a Hydraulic Stump Grinder

Note that you'll need a vehicle with a trailer hitch to tow the machine, which weighs about 1000 pounds. If that's not possible, most rental dealers will deliver it to your home for an additional fee.

To remove the 30-in.-dia. red maple stump shown here, we used a Vermeer Model SC252 stump grinder, the same size machine found at most rental dealers. It has a powerful 25-hp engine and 16-in.-dia. cutting wheel that's studded with 16 forged-steel teeth. This is a loud, powerful machine with a sophisticated hydraulic system, but it's surprisingly simple to operate.

Start by using a shovel or garden mattock to remove any rocks from around the base of the stump (Photo 1). This is important because rocks can dull or damage the teeth on the cutting wheel. Next, use a chain saw to carefully trim the stump close to the ground (Photo 2). You could skip this and start right in with the grinder, but this extra step speeds up the job.

Use the hydraulic lever to raise the grinder wheel a few inches above the stump. Drive the machine forward to position the wheel directly over the stump's front edge. Start the wheel spinning and slowly lower it about 3 in. into the stump. Use the hydraulic lever to slowly swing the wheel from side to side to clear out the wood. After you've dug down at least 4 in., raise the wheel, advance the machine a few inches, and repeat the process. While operating the machine, always stand at the control panel (Photo 3), which is located near the rear of the machine and well away from the cutting wheel.

Little by little, continue to grind your way through to the other side of the stump. Stop and check to make sure that the freshly dug hole is at least 4 in. below the ground. Rake up all the wood chips and fill the crater with screened topsoil (Photo 4).

Tamp down and lightly rake the soil. Spread out an even layer of grass seed (Photo 5), and then rake the seeds into the soil. Water the area and cover the seeds with a thick cover of mulch hay.



Use a garden mattock or shovel to clear the area around the stump of any rocks that could damage the cutting wheel.



Trim the stump close to the ground with a chain saw. This will greatly reduce the time spent with the stump grinder.



Lower the cutting wheel into the stump, then swing it side to side to slowly grind the wood into small chips.



Fill the 4-in.-deep crater with screened topsoil. Then, tamp down the surface and add more soil if necessary. Spread grass seed over the entire area, making sure you don't miss any spots. Rake in the seeds, then water.