

STUMP GRINDER TEETH—STAYING SHARP

by Jolene Priest

As with brush chipper knives, stump grinder teeth should be inspected daily to maintain a smooth grinding performance.

To carry out the inspection on grinders built with multi-tipped cutting tools, separate the keeper plate and tooth. Inspect the groove in the top of the keeper plate and the edges underneath, and then check the tooth for excessive wear. Next, inspect threads in the threaded insert and bolt, and then evaluate the condition of the slot. Finally, re-assemble the threaded insert, tooth and keeper plate. Tighten the bolt to the torque setting given in the operator's manual.

Monitoring grinder performance will also go a long way in maintaining tooth life. A change in grinding speed and smoothness may indicate worn carbide tips. These tips wear quicker when grinding in sand, and rocks can cause even more damage.

On cutter wheels with multi-tipped cutting tools, worn backing teeth can be replaced with used leading teeth. These teeth can be used repeatedly for maximum life. On a regular basis, rotate the teeth in different slots to avoid excessive wear.

Continuing this important inspection process will result in long tooth life and an efficient grind.