

IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

USE OF TONGS TO ANCHOR SKIDDERS

Excessive damage to trees in selectively cut stands caused by anchoring skid loaders to them was overcome at one operation in western Kentucky. Common practice in anchoring these machines is to wrap a chain around a standing tree about 4 feet from the ground. During the skidding and loading operations, movement of the chain damages the bark causing either a bad scar or more generally girdling.

Not wishing to ban the machines, the Farm Forester suggested that the logger use tongs attached near the base of the tree. This method leaves two relatively small scars that heal over. The logger soon found that less slippage occurs, less time is required in setting up, the front end of the truck is held down steadier, and furthermore he can anchor to low stumps (fig. 1). Fewer trees are now used as anchors, and the system is proving mutually satisfactory to both the forester and the logger.

E. W. Fobes
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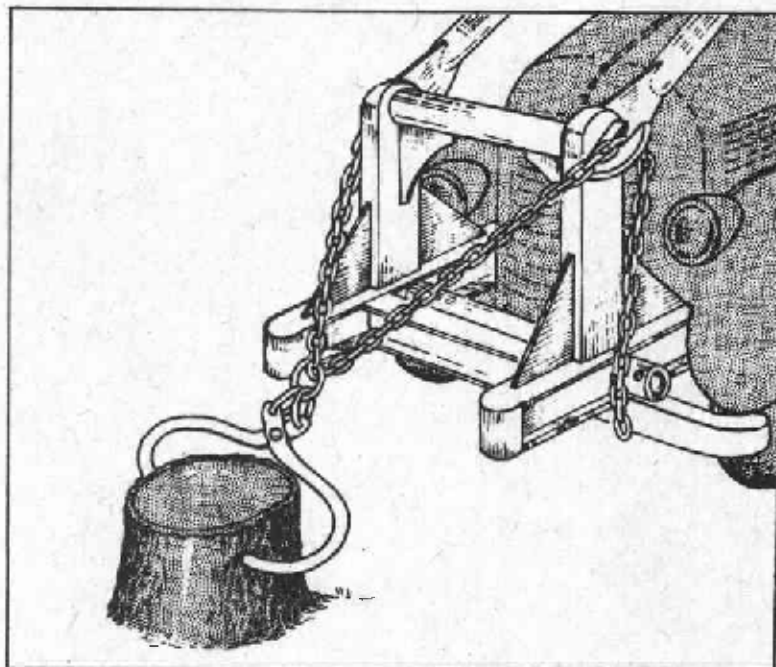


Figure 1.--Tongs used to anchor skidder to low stump.

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† Maintained at Madison, Wisconsin in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin

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