



The Bräcke Planter

The Bräcke Planter is a Swedish built (RoburMaskin AB) implement, which can be fitted to most commonly available excavators. It creates an inverted turf mound and plants a **cell grown tree** into the centre of the mound.

Where can the planter be used?

- Woodland planting into rough upland grazing ground (especially wet areas)
- Planting through rank heather
- Planting amongst rocks and boulders (subject to excavator access)
- Industrial Restoration sites with heavy ground requiring cultivation
- Restocking of windblown and felled plantations involving working with brash mats



Interest to date has focussed on the machine's potential to work in restock areas where:

- Rough ground makes access difficult for machinery and labour alike
- The Health and Safety risks are particularly high with manual access to such sites
- There is a lack of labour willing to work in such conditions
- Available labour is often poorly supervised, allowing poor planting techniques
- Current methods often provide variable quality planting spots.
- Pine Weevil attacks lead to significant plant losses
- Environmental pressure exists to reduce repeated insecticide applications.
- A high level of Management supervision is needed to organise the range of operations.

What Benefits does the Bräcke Planter Offer?

- Produces a firmed mound with no settlement time required
- Provides an elevated planting position in the form of an inverted turf
- Good planting quality, central to the mound and firmed in place.
- Large mound provides weed control and a degree of weevil protection.
- Option to apply weevil control chemicals at the time of planting
- Ability to prepare variable spaced planting spots in landscape sensitive situations
- Planting head easily and quickly removed for fitting other equipment
- Reduced supervision of higher calibre work force
- Reduced Health & Safety risks compared to labour walking over the site
- Good access for subsequent inspection & maintenance
- Quick release couplings allow a rapid change over ditching buckets.

Due to their variable nature, the planter is not suited to handling bare-root plants. The Bräcke planter uses **cell-grown plants** which brings the following additional benefits:

- Allow an extended planting season (September to June)
- Rapid Establishment
- Enhanced survival and hence lower final establishment costs

What are the outputs and costs of the Bräcke Planter?

Requirements: A base unit excavator with a weight of 13t or more, which is capable of providing a hydraulic pressure of 120 Bar and a flow of 100 lt/min. A source of compressed air is required to provide a high-pressure spray for cleaning the planting pipe. A suitable compressor can be supplied.

Output:

- New Planting – 250 trees per hr (estimated)
- Restock – minimal brash – 210 plants per hour
- Restock – moderate brash – 180 plants per hour
- Restock – heavy brash – 140 plants per hour

Logistics: A plant carrier should be fitted to the excavator to allow a supply of trees (equivalent to the excavator's refuelling period) to be carried on site. Whilst single operator working is possible, it is suggested that machines work in pairs with a 3rd person in the field to assist with stock handling and resetting any miss-planted positions. (See our information sheet entitled "The Cawdor Technique").

Planting Costs: Assuming 180 plants per hour, 5 year life for the planter, working 8 months a year, 4.5 days a week 7.5 hours a day on a base excavator charged at £24 per hour and one field man assisting 2 operating machines - approximately £625 per ha or 25p per mound at 2500 plants per gross hectare. (Excluding plants and chemical applications.)

Machine Price: Approximately £28,000 including an air compressor, hydraulic accumulator and UK Delivery. Allow £2000 for fitting and setting up. Prices will vary with exchange rates. Please contact us for up to date pricing.

Is there sufficient work for Bräcke Planters?

On restock work an annual work programme of between 80-100 Ha will be required to keep a planter occupied. Alba Trees have received a high level of interest from a wide range of managers and owners throughout Scotland, the North of England and Wales. We aim to put contractors in contact with interested managers and owners and establish a 3 way working relationship with ourselves. We have established 4 contractors in Scotland on such a basis.

Contact Request Form

I am interested in (please tick relevant boxes)

- Visiting a site to see a Bräcke Planter at work
- Contacting a contractor who is considering purchasing a Bräcke Planter
- Purchasing a Bräcke Planter for my own use

I am

- A landowner
- A forestry contractor
- An independent consultant
- A land management company employee

I have

A current planting programme of Ha

An annual planting programme of Ha

The area to be planted is located.....(geographical area of UK)

The area to be planted is new planting / restock (please delete as appropriate)

The major species to be planted are.....

My details are

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Post Code:.....

Telephone:.....Email:.....

- Please send an information leaflet on the Bräcke Planter to the above address.**

Send to:

**Alba Trees Plc, Lower Winton, Gladsmuir, East Lothian
T: 01620 825058, F: 01620 825316 E: info@albatrees.co.uk**