

**Please contact me for a quote if interested as days are filling and I DON'T BELIEVE IN OVERBOOKING.**

*Give me a call, and take the worries out of harvesting. References available, Satisfaction guaranteed.*

### OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Advantages:

- ÿ Sigma F3 is a self propelled unit.
  - ÿ Decreased harvesting costs per kilogram of fruit.
  - ÿ Decreased transport and processing costs due to larger quantities taken each time.
  - ÿ No lifting of crates or olives, moving catchers or hand-picking.
  - ÿ Increase productivity - more trees harvested in less time.
  - ÿ No OH & S problems, wages, workers compensation and superannuation paperwork.
- (Note: it only takes one picker to hurt themselves and work cover can go through the whole farm.)

#### Cost of Service

Please contact us for a quote.

#### Requirement

- ÿ Trees to have foliage pruned to a minimum of 80 cm from ground level.
- ÿ One person to organise empty bin placement.
- ÿ Minimum of 300 trees to be harvested at one time.

#### Frequently asked questions

##### Does shaking affect next year's fruit production?

All trees on our property that have been harvested using this method for the last 7 years. A trial in the first year showed that the trees mechanically harvested produced the same amount of fruit as the trees that were hand-picked and pneumatically picked.

### How many trees can be harvested in 1 hour?

This depends on the layout of the trees and how they have been pruned. The Sigma F3 can harvest approximately 50 - 90 trees per hour depending on grove set up, loosening agent used, etc.

### What is the best time to harvest and at what stage of fruit development?

Trees under 5 years old should be harvested when days are cooler due to the bark not being as supple. The fruit should ideally be 70% ripe, 20% turning and 10% green. This will also aid better oil quality.

### What variety of trees do the Sigma F3 work best on?

Varieties with prostrate branches, such as Paragon, Corregiola and Hardy's Mammoth, however any variety that has been pruned correctly can be mechanically harvested with either machine, depending on the age of the tree, with good results.

Trials with loosening agents are proving very successful on most varieties.

### How much fruit is shaken off?

This is determined, again, by how the tree is pruned. Correctly pruned trees will have approximately 80% to 99% of fruit removed.

### Our history in the olive industry

1997 to 1998 we planted 2,400 olive trees. The varieties included UC13A6, Paragon, Manzanillo and Hardy's Mammoth. The first three harvests we hand picked, and pneumatically harvested all the tree using friends and hired help, but came to the realisation that this method was slow, time consuming, tedious, inefficient, expensive and was another area with potential OH&S problems.

During 2003 we investigated many of the mechanical harvesting options available and settled on the Tornado harvester as it was fast, effective (when trees pruned correctly), and required minimal physical labour to operate. During 2006 we decided to add the Sigma F3 to cater for larger trees.

My outlook for the industry is bright, however not everyone will be able to set up and supply high value niche markets. Therefore as with all agricultural industries, profit is more likely to be determined by, being able to decrease the cost of production and increase efficiency of labour units. Remember how the trees are treated and harvested this year will have a major affect on future years production.

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