

SOP - Rotary Soil Tiller Walk Behind

DO NOT use this plant* or complete this task unless you have been inducted in its safe use and operation by an Authorised Experienced Operator

This SOP may not cover all possible hazards and risks and should be referred to as a control measure in the risk assessment process. Additional training may be required for high risk plant/work. Site and task may change required PPE.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Eye protection must be worn



Long and loose hair must be contained or covered.



Hearing protection must be worn



Foot protection must be worn



Protective body clothing must be worn



High visibility clothing must be worn

POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

- ⓘ Entanglement**
Entanglement in moving parts
- ⓘ Exposure to High Pressure Fluid**
Injury from exposure to high pressure fluids
- ⓘ Struck by Moving Object**
Struck by moving object due to work pieces being ejected
- ⓘ Cutting, Stabbing or Puncturing**
Injury from sharp or flying object
Injury from contact with moving parts
Injury from unexpected movement of plant
- ⓘ Shearing**
Body parts sheared between items of plant
- ⓘ Exposure to Dust/Fumes**
Exposure to Dust
- ⓘ Slip, Trips, Falls**
Slip, trip, fall due to uneven or slippery work surfaces
Slip, trip, fall due to steep working surfaces
- ⓘ Other**
Hearing damage from excessive noise
Injury due to operating of plant in unsuitable weather conditions
Injury due to plant malfunction or misuse

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Complete site specific risk assessment
- ✓ Complete visual plant check before operation
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with plant operations and controls
- ✓ Ensure that guards are fitted, secured and functional in accordance with manufacturers guidelines
- ✓ Ensure the tine spacing is set to according to soil conditions and manufacturers specifications
- ✓ Before commencing operation, ensure that all obstructions, (such as rocks, stones, bottles, tins, wires) or other items that could become a projectile are removed from the area

OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Keep clear of moving plant parts
- ✓ Operate plant to the conditions of the work area
- ✓ Operate at a speed slow enough to keep control over unexpected hazards
- ✓ Watch for ejected material. Ensure no person or animal is endangered when operating plant
- ✓ Always watch for bystanders while operating plant
- ✓ Adjust the handles to a position for comfort and good balance
- ✓ Ensure the cultivator is securely held and is on firm and even ground before starting
- ✓ Maintain a straight wrist position. Avoid using your wrist in a bent, extended or twisted position

- ✓ Watch for hidden hazards on the terrain and avoid any hazards or objects that could cause injury or damage
- ✓ Maintain a proper balance and secure footing
- ✓ Use caution when reversing or pulling the machine towards you
- ✓ Be aware of changes in weather conditions that may affect plant operators safety
- ✓ Stop rotary tiller immediately upon striking an obstruction. Turn engine off, inspect and repair any damage before resuming operation
- ✓ Shut down immediately if plant starts to shake or vibrate. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble
- ✓ Before making adjustments bring plant to a complete standstill and disconnect the spark plug wire
- ✓ Take care when refuelling to avoid spilling fuel onto hot motor or exhaust

ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ Allow plant to cool before performing any maintenance, refuelling or cleaning
- ✓ Remove the spark plug lead before removing any foreign material from in and around tines, spacers and guards
- ✓ Refuel plant at least 3 metres from combustibles
- ✓ Ensure plant is in good working order and stored in the appropriate location

DO NOT

- ✘ Do not use if plant is faulty. Attach an Out of Service tag and report fault to your supervisor
- ✘ Do not leave plant running unattended
- ✘ Do not allow riders on the rotary tiller at any time
- ✘ Do not operate on steep slopes
- ✘ Do not over reach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times. This enables better control of mower in unexpected situations
- ✘ Do not operate plant on wet grass. Always be sure of your footing
- ✘ Do not touch the engine muffler during or after operation of plant. It is extremely hot and can cause severe burns
- ✘ Do not modify the equipment in any way
- ✘ Do not wear loose jewellery
- ✘ Do not use mobile phone while operating plant

***Plant in this SOP refers to any machinery, equipment, appliance, container, implement and tool.**