

Rototiller

Facility:	Written By:	Approved By:	Date Created:	Date of Last Revision

Hazards Present:	PPE or Devices Required:	Additional Training Required:
Flying debris	Safety glasses	
Burns from hot parts	Steel toed boots	
Injury from moving parts	Protective gloves	
Carbon Monoxide poisoning	Long pants	
Musculoskeletal Injuries	Shirts with 6 inch sleeve	
	Hearing protection	
	High vis clothing	

Safe Work Procedure:

Check the area to be tilled:

1. Clear the area of debris or anything that may be picked up by the tines. Clear the site of rocks and large weeds – scrape off weed seedlings with a spade and dispose of them
2. Watch for hedges/trees/shrubs next to or against wire fences
3. Look for power lines, wires or cables. The tiller is not insulated against electrical shock.
Do not operate the tool in the vicinity of any power wires.

Operation:

1. Mark off the area to be tilled if necessary
2. Always start and operate the tiller outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Always stand so that the wind directs any exhaust fumes away from the operator whenever possible
3. Set the drag bar height for the desired depth of till so that the tiller is tilted slightly backward
4. Ensure that the front wheel is in the raised position before engaging the tiller
5. Start the engine in neutral with the tines locked in place above the ground level. Select the proper gear speed. Drop the tines where you want the first bite taken out of the soil and engage the tiller – plant your feet and hold on tight.
6. Till native soil over first before adding soil or other material. Try and get a depth of 4 to 6 inches by slightly resisting the tiller's forward motion. A depth of 12 inches is desired for pea stone on playgrounds. Walk the tiller slowly, gripping it enough to keep the tines digging
7. Go straight down the edge you've marked out and keep the depth consistent. Shift to neutral and pick up the tines at the end of the first swath, roll the tiller up out of the bed, turn around and repeat
8. Till again crossways, then on a diagonal and finally, in the exact opposite direction from your first pass. You can use the natural furrows the tiller leaves to mark your rows
9. Clean the tiller after use – hose down the tines and use an implement if needed to remove stubborn material.
10. Return the tiller to storage

If an emergency situation occurs while conducting this task, or there is an equipment malfunction, engage the emergency stop and follow the lock out procedure

REPORT ANY HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS TO YOUR SUPERVISOR

Guidance Documents/Standards: MB Workplace Safety & Health Act & Regulations:	This Safe Work Procedure will be reviewed any time the task, equipment or materials change and at a minimum of every three years
	Reviewed By WSH Committee:
	Date: