

Garden Rotovator



Preparation and PPE

- Thoroughly inspect the area where the rotovator is to be used and remove all foreign objects.
 - Do not operate the rotovator without wearing adequate outer garments.
 - Wear footwear that will improve footing on slippery surfaces.
 - Make sure the safety glasses are a comfortable and snug fit.
 - Wear hearing protection, e.g., earplugs or earmuffs.
 - Wear heavy-duty work gloves made of durable material (e.g., leather).
- Handle fuel with care; it is highly flammable.
 - Use an approved fuel container.
 - Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.
 - Fill fuel tank outdoors with extreme care. Never fill fuel tank indoors.
 - Replace fuel cap securely and clean up spilled fuel before restarting.
 - Never attempt to make any adjustments while the engine is running except where specifically recommended by the manufacturer.

Operation

- Visually check the machine for operational safety, complete components, and fixed guarding prior to each use.
- Read and be aware of the warning and instruction signs located on the rotovator.
- Cordon off the work area to prevent other people and animals from entering the work area.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts.
- Exercise extreme caution when operating on or crossing gravel drives, walks or roads. Stay alert for hidden hazards or traffic.
- After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, remove the wire from the spark plug, thoroughly inspect the tiller for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the rotovator.
- Exercise caution to avoid slipping or falling.
- If the rotovator should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- Stop the engine when leaving the operating position, before unclogging the tines, and when making any repairs, adjustments, and inspections.
- Take all possible precautions when leaving the machine unattended. Disengage the power take off, lower the attachment, shift into neutral, stop the engine and remove the key.

- Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, shut off the engine and make certain all moving parts have stopped.
- Do not run the engine indoors. Exhaust fumes are dangerous.
- Never operate the rotovator without proper guards, plates, or other safety protective devices in place.
- Do not overload the machine capacity by attempting to till too deep at too fast a rate.
- Always keep the rotovator upright. Do not tilt the machine onto its back or side. If you have done this and now find that you cannot pull the pullcord, call the hire shop on 014534288 and explain the situation to them.
- Never operate the rotovator without good visibility or light.
- Be careful when rotovator in hard ground. The tines may catch in the ground and propel the rotovator forward. If this occurs, let go of the handlebars and do not restrain the machine.

Transport Wheels

The transport wheels are used solely for moving the rotovator to its designated digging location.

They are not required at any point during actual ground cultivation.

The transport wheels are held the downwards travel position using a spring mechanism. By pulling on the wheels, it is possible to overcome the tension of the spring and rotate the wheels 180 degrees upwards and around to a location where it is held out of the way of the digging tines.

Starting the Rotovator

1. Move the throttle control lever to the centre position.
2. Manually open choke. Hold the handlebar with your left hand while pulling the starter rope with your right. Pull the rope out slowly until the engine reaches the start of the compression cycle (the rope will pull slightly harder at this point). Then allow the rope to retract fully.
3. Pull the rope with a continuous full arm stroke. Keep a firm grip on the starter handle and let the rope rewind slowly. Do not let the handle snap back against the starter.
4. Repeat steps Number 2 and 3 above until the engine starts. If the engine fails to start after 3 pulls on the rope, repeat Step 1 above as necessary. Close choke after engine has responded.
5. As the engine warms up, move the throttle lever to desired position. Allow engine warm-up period before operating tiller.
6. To stop the engine, push the stop switch to off.

NOTE: A warm engine may start without choking. Do not use the choke if engine is hot.

Operating Lever

The drive to digging tines is controlled by the operating lever located under the grip on the right handlebar.

Pulling upwards on this lever engages the drive to the tines which will start rotating and digging into the ground.

Drag Bar

Located at the rear of the machine, the drag bar is used to control the depth and speed at which the rotovator will dig into the ground.

The depth is controlled by varying the position at which the drag bar is held into its location at the rear of the rotovator. The drag bar has a choice of holes through which its locating pin can be positioned. The lower the hole used on the drag bar to hold it in its position, the deeper the machine will dig. Adjust the drag stake for comfortable operation. This is done by depressing pin, and sliding the drag stake up or down. The drag stake should be set so that when it is firmly in the ground, and your hands are on the tiller handle, your arms hand comfortably with the elbows slightly bent.

Forward speed is controlled by the drag bar as during operation of the rotovator downward pressure is applied on the handlebars by the operator that forces the drag bar into the ground. This acts as an anchor holding the rotovator in place whilst it digs down to its required depth. Releasing downward pressure on the drag bar allows the rotovator to walk itself forward into its new cultivating position.

Press down firmly on the handles, and then squeeze the clutch lever. The tines will begin to turn, but the tiller should not move forward. If it does, do not pull backwards - merely press down harder on the handle. When you find the right amount of downward pressure so that the tines are digging and tiller is not moving forward, release the pressure slightly. As you release it, you will notice the rotovator beginning to move forward. The whole rotovating operation is controlled by the amount of pressure you put on the drag stake. Do not fight the rotovator. Stand between the handles and press down to go slower and dig deeper and release the downward pressure to move forward faster. In normal soil, the actual up and down movement of the handles will be no more than an inch or two.

OPERATING TIPS

To acquire the knack of letting the tiller do the work without effort on the part of the operator, we offer the following suggestions:

1. Adjust drag stake so the handles are at such a height that your arms hang straight down to contact them. Rear wheels should be raised for deep tillage or ease of turning in confined areas.
2. Operate the tiller at about 3/4 throttle.
3. Do not hurry the job - proceed at a slow walk - give the machine time to do its job.
4. Concentrate on keeping your arms relaxed (There is a natural tendency for any beginner to tense up.).
5. Operation takes very little effort. Let the rotovator do the work.
6. When rotovating on sloping ground, turn the front of the machine uphill to sufficiently counteract the tendency to run downhill.