# Operating Rototillers and Walk-Behind Tractors

## Can youth do this job safely?

**Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job:**

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Strong enough to safely operate equipment for duration of task
- Youth is physically large enough to safely operate the unit
- Attention span long enough to complete work
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- Mature enough to consistently do what is expected
- Good peripheral vision
- Bend and lift safely, using proper techniques
- Limit weight carried to less than 25% of youth's body weight
- Can understand and consistently repeat a 10-step process
- Clears area of all debris and rocks before starting, see Picking Rock guideline
- Connect/disconnect an implement
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- Maintain two-way communication link
- Change clothes and wash hands when job is done



## Adult Responsibilities

- Comply with the working outdoors guideline
- Ensure no underground utility lines if digging into soil
- Ensure equipment is mechanically sound with all safety features in place
- Provide safe transport to worksite
- Ensure appropriate training
- Demonstrate how to safely operate equipment
- Monitor youth for fatigue while operating equipment
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Train youth to call an adult if equipment malfunctions

## Supervision

*Note: Youth should begin with smaller rototillers (e.g. Mantis) and progress to larger rototillers and walk-behind tractors as age/abilities allow)*

| | |
|---|---|
| 12-13 | Constant supervision progressing to intermittent |
| 14-15 | Intermittent supervision |
| 16+ | Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic |

## Hazards



Entanglement | Sharp objects | Repetitive motion | Thermal burns from hot components | Slippery/ uneven surface

## Protective Strategies




Gloves | Steel-toed non-skid shoes | Eye protection | Hearing protection (as needed) | Operator's manual

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