

# 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 <u>Picking</u> <u>Rock</u> 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





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

